

# CLERK'S FILE COPY

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS  
EASTERN DIVISION

KATHERINE ALBRECHT,  
Plaintiff,

v.

METROPOLITAN PIER AND EXPOSITION  
AUTHORITY, et al.,  
Defendants.

No. 03 C 6472  
Chicago, Illinois  
September 15, 2003  
10:15 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS - HEARING

BEFORE THE HONORABLE MORTON DENLOW

## APPEARANCES:

For the Plaintiff: MR. HARVEY M. GROSSMAN  
MR. ADAM D. SCHWARTZ  
MS. CONNIE Y. CHUNG  
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For the Defendant: MS. BETTINA GETZ  
MR. DANIEL G. HILDEBRAND  
MR. DAVID W. FULLER  
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PROCEEDINGS RECORDED BY MECHANICAL STENOGRAPHY  
TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY COMPUTER

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1 THE CLERK: 03 C 6472, Albrecht versus Metropolitan  
2 Pier.

3 THE COURT: Go ahead and identify yourselves, and  
4 spell your last names for the record.

5 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good morning, Your Honor. Adam  
6 Schwartz, S-c-h-w-a-r-t-z, on behalf of the plaintiff.

7 MR. GROSSMAN: Harvey Grossman, G-r-o-s-s-m-a-n, on  
8 behalf of the plaintiff.

9 MS. CHUNG: Connie Chung, C-h-u-n-g, on behalf of the  
10 plaintiff.

11 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, this is the plaintiff's  
12 motion for --

13 THE COURT: Let me hear who the defendants are.

14 MR. HILDEBRAND: Daniel Hildebrand,  
15 H-i-l-d-e-b-r-a-n-d, for the defendant Metropolitan Pier &  
16 Exposition Authority.

17 MS. GETZ: Bettina Getz, also for the defendant.

18 MR. FULLER: David Fuller, F-u-l-l-e-r, for the  
19 defendant.

20 THE COURT: Okay. This is plaintiff's motion for a  
21 temporary restraining order, is that correct?

22 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes, Your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Let me just explain to you a procedural  
24 issue that I want you to address, and that is, I am going to  
25 encourage you to think about the possibility of giving me a

1 limited consent. If you want a decision that's going to have  
2 any meaning, without a limited consent, all I could do is make  
3 a report and recommendation to Judge Nordberg, and then you are  
4 going to be right back before Judge Nordberg who sent it back  
5 to me. So I am going to have my courtroom deputy give you  
6 forms of limited consent, I'll give you forms of full consent  
7 too, but I'm not as concerned about that. I'll give you forms  
8 of limited consent.

9 I want you to think about it, and then I want you to  
10 tell me collectively whether you are going to give me a limited  
11 consent are not. I don't want to know -- if one of you  
12 doesn't, chooses not to give me a limited consent, that's your  
13 choice, and I respect it. But I don't want you to tell me who  
14 it was that refused to consent because I don't want anybody to  
15 feel that, as a result of one party's refusing to consent, that  
16 I may feel differently about it.

17 Just from a practical standpoint, I mean, if we are  
18 going to go through the trouble of arguing the motion and  
19 obtaining a decision, and if all I do is a report and  
20 recommendation, which would probably be a verbal report and  
21 recommendation, then you are going to, you know, whoever loses  
22 is going to go right back to Judge Nordberg and say, "Okay,  
23 here's the report and recommendation, Judge, you still have to  
24 deal with it." I can't enter an order on the TRO.

25 Any questions about the procedural question that I'm

1 putting to you? Okay.

2           So I'll give you five minutes to talk, and if you  
3 agree either to the limited consent or the full consent, on the  
4 limited consent form, just fill in the title of the motion for  
5 which you are consenting for me to decide, and then that would  
6 be I would be deciding that particular motion for purposes of  
7 the case. If you want to do a full consent, then I'll hang  
8 onto the entire case, but that's not as important to me right  
9 now as making sure that, if we are going to go through all this  
10 effort, that it be for some useful reason and not just to spin  
11 wheels and then send you right back to Judge Nordberg.

12           I'll get off the bench for a few minutes and let you  
13 talk about it.

14           MS. GETZ: Your Honor, one question. The defendants  
15 had sent over their papers this morning. I just wanted to make  
16 sure you got them.

17           THE COURT: Yes, I did.

18           MS. GETZ: Okay. Thanks.

19           (Recess.)

20           THE COURT: Let's call the case again, and let's  
21 decide how we are going to proceed here.

22           THE CLERK: 03 C 6472, Albrecht versus Metropolitan  
23 Pier.

24           THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Schwartz, what is it that you  
25 intend to proceed on, just the papers that were filed and oral

1 argument? Is there anything else? Do you intend to call any  
2 witnesses?

3 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes, Your Honor. Ms. Albrecht, the  
4 plaintiff in this lawsuit, is present in this courtroom and is  
5 prepared to testify.

6 THE COURT: Okay. With an evidentiary hearing then?

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, we object to an  
8 evidentiary hearing. We had no notice that plaintiffs intended  
9 to put on witnesses. Our understanding Friday was that this  
10 would be done on the papers this morning. We certainly could  
11 have brought witnesses, but we think, as reflected in our  
12 papers, that this whole proceeding is a trumped up emergency  
13 and premature. This is another way of sandbagging us. Let's  
14 stand on the papers and have an argument and see where the  
15 result falls tomorrow.

16 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, may I address that  
17 briefly?

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 MR. GROSSMAN: I intend to be the person who puts  
20 Miss Albrecht's testimony on. We really have her here today as  
21 a service to the Court. We think that she can describe in some  
22 degree of specificity what it is that she wants to do, how it  
23 is that she intends to do it. We put some emergency papers  
24 together here.

25 We are only seeking limited relief on the TRO, that

1 is, for Miss Albrecht and members of her group to go forward  
2 tomorrow. We never had any understanding, I'm not questioning  
3 what opposing counsel's, quote, understanding is, but we never  
4 agreed to any process today.

5           We certainly don't intend to take any unfair  
6 advantage of them. Quite honestly, they have the majority of  
7 the evidence in this case. It's their, it's their building,  
8 they know how it's run, they have people who have filed  
9 affidavits, they have made representations, numerous  
10 representations in their papers that they filed this morning,  
11 and all we really seek to do is establish through Miss  
12 Albrecht's testimony who she is, what the importance of her  
13 speech is, what her intentions are in terms of engaging in  
14 communication. It's very, very brief. I don't believe it's  
15 controversial, but I think it will inform the Court.

16           THE COURT: Okay. I mean, I am at a little bit of a  
17 disadvantage because I was not here last week, and when I  
18 arrived I had all these papers. And I have dealt with a  
19 similar case at one point, that Ayres versus City of Chicago,  
20 case, I handled a preliminary injunction.

21           My general feeling is that we are better off, you  
22 know, just deciding the case once on the merits and not  
23 spending a lot of time -- I mean, you know, just sort of going  
24 right to the merits and just deciding it on the merits. I  
25 don't know if the merits change significantly.



1           And I would make the following suggestion for  
2 defendants to think about, that we continue the hearing to 1  
3 o'clock, permit the defendants to either depose or informally  
4 interview the plaintiff about what it is that she is going to  
5 testify to, give you the opportunity if you want to bring a  
6 person down, or you can stand on your papers about McCormick  
7 Place, and let's just decide this up or down, you know, one way  
8 or the other, if you feel comfortable with that, if you feel  
9 comfortable with that.

10           MS. GETZ: Your Honor, we do have a problem with  
11 that, and this is why. We didn't get served with this stuff  
12 until late or middle of the afternoon on Friday. This is  
13 something that's been a rush through the weekend to get  
14 something on file. Our clients are due to start three new  
15 trade shows tomorrow at Navy Pier to get --

16           THE COURT: McCormick Place.

17           MS. GETZ: I'm sorry, McCormick Place.

18           And to find someone at this point, get them prepared  
19 and ready to testify, it puts us at an extreme disadvantage. I  
20 don't think what's going to come out through the plaintiff's  
21 testimony is going to be anything that's earthshattering. We  
22 could probably just take a few minutes and talk with her and  
23 reconvene before Your Honor.

24           THE COURT: Okay.

25           MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, might I also respond

1 briefly?

2           We intended to proceed -- we have no problem at all  
3 trying this once so that, instead of going to a preliminary  
4 injunction phase to have some sort of process by which the  
5 Court determines the ultimate merits. We would not like that  
6 to happen today simply because we have had also no discovery at  
7 all. There are lots of factual representations here.

8           THE COURT: Yes. I don't know. Will the case  
9 survive beyond today?

10           MR. GROSSMAN: Well, I think it will, Your Honor,  
11 because we have challenged the rules on their face. So I think  
12 there is an as-applied challenge that we want you to hear  
13 today, but a facial challenge that we want you to ultimately  
14 determine.

15           MR. HILDEBRAND: We would agree, Your Honor. We  
16 certainly don't want a preliminary injunction ruling based on  
17 the limited evidence in the record today.

18           THE COURT: That's fine.

19           MR. HILDEBRAND: We did our best over the weekend to  
20 provide you with a full presentation, but --

21           THE COURT: That's fine. My suggestion would be  
22 then, let's just treat it as a TRO. Let's forget the  
23 preliminary injunction phase and go right to a hearing on the  
24 ultimate merits whenever you are ready on that so that there  
25 not be any intermediate step. The only intermediate step will



1 be this TRO, which basically will govern what happens over the  
2 next three days, which is the period of time that you are most  
3 concerned about as far as this particular event is concerned.  
4 Is that fair?

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: That's agreeable to us.

6 MR. GROSSMAN: It is also to us.

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: If I understand, we'll just be  
8 skipping, there will be no further preliminary relief, then it  
9 will be a question of a permanent challenge to the policies.

10 THE COURT: The TRO is going to be in effect for ten  
11 days anyway.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: Right.

13 THE COURT: So whatever happens on the TRO will  
14 govern what happens with respect to this event.

15 MR. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

16 THE COURT: And that will be without prejudice to  
17 then deciding it on the merits whenever you are ready.

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Full record.

19 MR. GROSSMAN: We do agree with that with regard to  
20 Miss Albrecht. And I don't want the Court to think that we  
21 have any agenda other than the one that we are explicitly  
22 expressing here today.

23 The American Civil Liberties Union has a little  
24 problem independent of our, us as counsel representing a single  
25 plaintiff in this case. I don't know if somebody else is going

1 to be affected by this in the next 15 or 20 days and come in  
2 and see us and have a problem. So I would try to reconcile  
3 that with our representation of Miss Albrecht and what we are  
4 trying to do here in this case, and I can make those  
5 representations binding on Miss Albrecht in this case, but I  
6 want the Court to understand.

7 THE COURT: Right, if somebody else tomorrow comes in  
8 and asks you to --

9 MR. GROSSMAN: Wants to do something else next week,  
10 we will go to them and try to figure out what to do here.

11 MR. HILDEBRAND: Just so long as the representation  
12 is there aren't more waiting in the wings that you're aware of  
13 at this point.

14 MR. GROSSMAN: No, we are representing Miss Albrecht.

15 MR. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

16 THE COURT: Have you made any effort to meet and talk  
17 about this to see whether you can work out something as it  
18 relates to this particular show without prejudice on either  
19 side as far as, you know, the merits go?

20 MR. HILDEBRAND: We did make an effort to meet and  
21 talk, Your Honor, but because of the particularly high density  
22 of traffic down at McCormick Place tomorrow, with four shows in  
23 the building, approximately 40,000 people, the general  
24 manager's ultimate feeling was we have our policies for a  
25 reason, and I guess for tomorrow, at least, we want to step up

1 and defend them as they are.

2 THE COURT: Okay.

3 MS. GETZ: And, Your Honor, this does come so very,  
4 very late in the day when this was known to people months ago,  
5 to sort of legislate on the fly and change the rules which  
6 really could affect other protesters in the future. We hate to  
7 do that on a case-by-case basis and really shouldn't have to  
8 given the timing of this case.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MR. GROSSMAN: As a courtesy to the Court, I would  
11 like to inform, and to the governmental body involved here,  
12 represent to the Court that Miss Albrecht started her efforts  
13 to perfect her speech at McCormick about 20 days ago, and that  
14 she sought the assistance of pro bono counsel, that this matter  
15 did come into our office about ten days ago, that by the time  
16 we worked through our caseload, made contact, sent the demand  
17 letter, that we find ourselves here today. So we did not  
18 consciously attempt to sandbag the defendants or the Court as  
19 might be suggested to get an expedited ruling of some nature.  
20 It is the nature of pro bono representation, unfortunately.

21 THE COURT: Just for my own scheduling purposes,  
22 because I had a couple other things going this morning,  
23 including interviewing some people for law clerkships and stuff  
24 and their coming in, I think it would work best for me if it  
25 works for you to give me till about 1 o'clock so I can study,

1 you know, the briefs, at least refamiliarize myself with the  
2 case law, make it a -- so I can ask the more specific questions  
3 in terms of what the standards are and, therefore, have a more  
4 intelligent discussion and oral argument; and then at that  
5 point in time, in the meantime give you an opportunity, if you  
6 want to interview the plaintiff, to either interview her or  
7 depose her, and then leave it to Mr. Grossman as to whether he  
8 wants to call her or wants to stand on the affidavit just for  
9 the limited purposes of the TRO so that you are not taken at  
10 all by surprise in terms of what the, you know, what she may  
11 testify to.

12 MS. GETZ: Well, there is no affidavit with the  
13 complaint, Your Honor.

14 MR. GROSSMAN: Yes, there are two declarations.

15 MS. GETZ: Oh, okay. I'm sorry. What I am saying is  
16 the complaint itself wasn't verified.

17 MR. GROSSMAN: No.

18 MR. SCHWARTZ: Correct.

19 THE COURT: No.

20 MS. GETZ: And we also have a verification at the end  
21 of our response, Your Honor, and we would like that to be able  
22 to stand in lieu of live testimony if there is no objection.

23 THE COURT: That would be fine, given the --

24 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, there is one additional  
25 matter. In addition to our written motion for a temporary

1 restraining order, we'd like to make at this time an oral  
2 motion for a judicial inspection of McCormick Place, as I think  
3 everyone will agree whether or not the speech that we are  
4 proposing is protected within McCormick Place is a highly fact  
5 intensive inquiry, and we believe that an inspection of the  
6 facility would be useful in making that judgment.

7           It is a practice that is engaged in by other courts  
8 in this district. Judge Moran went to the United Center in the  
9 context of the challenge to speech restrictions at the  
10 Democratic convention in 1996. Also in a lawsuit called Mercy  
11 Hospital, Judge Grady went to a hospital.

12           The basic paradigm is that paradigm is that the Court  
13 may look at the location to allow the Court to better  
14 understand the evidence before the Court, and that it can be  
15 done by consent of the parties or in the absence of consent if  
16 it is absolutely necessary to do so.

17           THE COURT: Okay. My schedule just will not permit  
18 it today. I have no problem if the parties agree to engaging  
19 in that process as we deal with the case on the merits, but  
20 it's just not, it's not practical for me to just drop  
21 everything and run out to McCormick Place and try to understand  
22 that, given my schedule.

23           I mean, and that's -- part of the problem is the  
24 timing of the lawsuit itself. I mean, had the lawsuit been  
25 filed two weeks ago or even a week ago, I mean, we could have

1 talked about it. But here it is, it was filed late Friday, and  
2 it's Monday, and you want something to happen tomorrow. I  
3 can't both be reading the cases and driving to McCormick Place  
4 and accommodating all that.

5 I would not be -- I mean, I would be open to that in  
6 dealing with the case ultimately on the merits if the parties  
7 feel it's appropriate, but I'm not going to do it today.

8 Anything else you want to raise, Mr. Schwartz?

9 MR. SCHWARTZ: No, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Okay. So does it work for everybody to  
11 resume at 1 o'clock?

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: That's very good, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: The one case, you know, that jumped out  
14 to me was this Chicago Acorn versus Metropolitan Pier. Is that  
15 the leading case on your side?

16 MR. HILDEBRAND: We believe so, Your Honor, yes.

17 THE COURT: What would you say the leading case is on  
18 your side?

19 MR. SCHWARTZ: We could also say Acorn, as well as  
20 International Society of Krishna Consciousness versus Lee, and  
21 also Los Angeles versus Jews for Jesus.

22 THE COURT: Okay. I am going to try to at least read  
23 those cases.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: Let us call the Hawkins decision out  
25 of Denver to your attention as well as the Carpenters decision



1 out of the First Circuit. They are cited in the first portion  
2 of our brief.

3 THE COURT: Hawkins, Carpenters, okay. Very good.

4 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, we would also add  
5 Weinberg, a recent decision of the Seventh Circuit.

6 THE COURT: Was that cited in your --

7 MR. SCHWARTZ: It's in our brief. I'm sorry. It's  
8 not in our brief.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Why don't you give me a cite if  
10 you expect me to --

11 MR. SCHWARTZ: I will.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: Me too.

13 MR. SCHWARTZ: I apologize.

14 THE COURT: I do try to stay current on the Seventh  
15 Circuit, but --

16 MR. SCHWARTZ: I apologize, I don't have that cite  
17 with me. Will it be okay if my assistant calls your chambers  
18 and --

19 MR. HILDEBRAND: I know what you are talking about.

20 MR. SCHWARTZ: This is the peddling of a book about  
21 the Blackhawks near the United Center.

22 THE COURT: Okay. There's probably about some 15,000  
23 people interested in it.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: I would say that Weinberg is  
25 irrelevant because there is no dispute --

1           THE COURT: We'll argue it later. I just want to be  
2 sure I have read the cases that you are going to be most  
3 heavily relying on.

4           Okay, and, Mr. Grossman, if you will make your client  
5 available in some way for defendants to interview or depose or  
6 whatever you want to do between now and then, we'll resume at 1  
7 o'clock.

8           MR. GROSSMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

9           THE COURT: Thank you.

10          MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

11          MS. GETZ: Thanks.

12          (Recess from 10:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m..)

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Albrecht -

1 (Proceedings in open court.)

2 THE COURT: Okay. Are we ready to proceed? Have  
3 the defendants had an opportunity to interview the plaintiff?

4 MR. HILDEBRAND: We have, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Grossman, do you want to call  
6 a witness?

7 MR. GROSSMAN: Yes, sir. Your Honor, at this time  
8 plaintiffs would like to call the plaintiff Katherine Albrecht.

9 THE COURT: Please step forward.

10 The courtroom deputy will swear you.

11 THE CLERK: Please raise your right hand.

12 KATHERINE ALBRECHT, PLAINTIFF, SWORN

13 THE CLERK: Please take a seat.

14 THE COURT: Miss Albrecht, try to bring the  
15 microphone close to you and speak into it, and just be relaxed.

16 Mr. Grossman, you may proceed.

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, I have several exhibits  
18 that I'd like the plaintiff to review during her testimony.  
19 They are all contained, I am going to use the defendants'  
20 exhibits and photographs to avoid any kind of issues. So they  
21 are attached to the affidavit of Thomas Mobley that was filed  
22 by the defendants today. Do you have a copy, sir?

23 THE COURT: Yes. Okay.

24 Any objection?

25 MS. GETZ: No objection, Your Honor.

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 THE COURT: Very good.

2 Also, there is a microphone back there. Be sure your  
3 green light is on.

4 MR. HILDEBRAND: The green light is on, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Very good.

6 DIRECT EXAMINATION

7 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

8 Q. Will you please state your name and spell your last name  
9 for the record.

10 A. My name is Katherine Albrecht. My last name is  
11 A-l-b-r-e-c-h-t.

12 Q. Miss Albrecht, are you the plaintiff in this lawsuit?

13 A. Yes, I am.

14 Q. I'd like you to briefly describe to the Court what your  
15 educational background is.

16 A. I have an undergraduate degree in international marketing,  
17 I have a master's degree in education from Harvard University,  
18 and I am currently working on my dissertation in a doctoral  
19 program at Harvard University where I am focusing on consumer  
20 education and specializing in privacy research.

21 Q. And you identify in the papers that you have filed in this  
22 case that you have a relationship with an organization named  
23 CASPIAN, C-a-s-p-i-a-n. Could you describe that organization  
24 to the Judge, please.

25 A. Yes. I'm the founder and director of CASPIAN. CASPIAN

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 stands for Consumers Against Supermarket Privacy Invasion in  
2 Numbering. We are I guess a loose-knit group of consumers  
3 around the country who have agreed that we oppose retail  
4 surveillance and technologies that contribute to retail  
5 surveillance and invasion of privacy of customers.

6 Q. And what is your relationship historically and presently  
7 with that organization?

8 A. I founded that organization in 1999 by the creation of a  
9 web site, and I am currently its director.

10 Q. If I understand correctly, you have come to Chicago because  
11 of the existence of a technology known as RFID, is that  
12 correct?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. Could you explain what RFID is?

15 A. Yes. RFID stands for radio frequency identification. It's  
16 a technology that uses tiny computer chips, and I've brought an  
17 exhibit for the Court to see those. They are the size of a  
18 spec of dust or a spec of glitter, and they communicate with  
19 reader devices at a distance of up to about 20 feet away with a  
20 unique identification number.

21           The goal behind this technology is to replace the bar  
22 code. Ultimately, once the goal of proponents of developers of  
23 the technology, meaning that consumer products as they were  
24 manufactured, would be equipped with one of these tiny devices  
25 hooked up to an antenna making that product able to be tracked



Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 and identified from a distance of up to 20 feet away, meaning  
2 that if these chips were in something, for example, like  
3 Huggies, Baby Wipes, which is one place they've been  
4 demonstrated or trialed, someone could aim a reader device at  
5 the Baby Wipes and be able to get this tiny chip to beam back  
6 its number at a distance, and then the reader device would be  
7 able to cross reference that in a database and look that item  
8 up.

9 Our concern is that if and when these replace bar  
10 codes, particularly in labels in people's clothing and other  
11 items that are personal items of individuals, not only would  
12 this database contain information about what the item is, but  
13 it could also potentially contain information about who had  
14 purchased it, what credit card was used to make that purchase,  
15 when and where the purchase was made, meaning that ultimately  
16 this technology could lead to the tracking of individuals.

17 Q. And CASPIAN is opposed to the use of this technology?

18 A. Yes, we are.

19 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, if I may, I'd like to  
20 interpose an objection. We don't believe the content of  
21 plaintiff's speech is at issue in this matter. We let the  
22 prior question pass for purposes of context, but I see no  
23 purposes in exploring at any length the content --

24 THE COURT: Right. I am just accepting it for some  
25 background, but I'm not really concerned about, for purposes of

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 this hearing, you know, the whole program and what -- you know,  
2 just a little background is fine, and I'm accepting it for that  
3 purpose.

4 I'm not aware that there is a content attack on the  
5 ordinance or the regulation, is there?

6 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, we have raised viewpoint  
7 discrimination, and to center the Court's attention, at page 7  
8 of the brief that was filed this morning by the defendants, in  
9 the first full paragraph midway down the page, the authority,  
10 the defendant authority, as I understand, it asserts that in  
11 fact, quote, "The Authority's professional judgment is that  
12 McCormick Place's customers prefer to conduct business in an  
13 environment where they are not confronted by persons who  
14 disagree with their agenda."

15 I think it's quite clear that viewpoint  
16 discrimination is implicated here. The authority believes that  
17 in pursuing their commercial interests and those of the --

18 THE COURT: Well, but I'm not aware, in terms of the  
19 regulation, that there are certain types of content that's  
20 allowed and certain type that is prohibited.

21 MR. GROSSMAN: Well, Your Honor, I think that as we  
22 proceed, maybe we can develop that more fully. But we do not  
23 intend to dwell at great length on the opposition.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, for the record, we  
25 obviously disagree with any suggestion that the rules out at

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1 McCormick Place are content based, and we also disagree that  
2 the statement just quoted implicates in any way content  
3 discrimination rules under a First Amendment analysis.

4 THE COURT: Very good. Thank you.

5 You may proceed, Mr. Grossman.

6 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

7 Q. In the past, what vehicles have you chosen to express  
8 CASPIAN's opposition to the implementation or deployment of  
9 RFID technology?

10 A. We have done numerous interviews with print and broadcast  
11 media, we've issued press releases on a variety of different  
12 issues on the subject, we have called for boycotts against  
13 companies that have done particularly egregious privacy  
14 invasion with this technology and, like, I guess primarily  
15 speaking with the public and educating the public both through  
16 the web site and through appearances with the press.

17 Q. And have you sought to educate members of society other  
18 than the general public itself?

19 A. Yes, I have, and I've spoken in a number of public venues,  
20 and I've also published an article in the Denver University Law  
21 Review in which a substantial portion of that article was  
22 dedicated to describing and uncovering this technology.

23 Q. Now, you have also spoken at various symposia, meetings,  
24 and conferences on this subject, is that correct?

25 A. That is correct.

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1 Q. And could you review for the Court very briefly some of  
2 those conferences or meetings?

3 A. Yes. Last month I testified at legislative hearings in the  
4 state of California out in Sacramento on this issue, RFID. I  
5 was a speaker at the Computer Freedom and Privacy Conference in  
6 New York City in I believe April of this year. I spoke at a  
7 national event at McCormick Place about two months ago on this  
8 issue also, and next month I will be appearing before, on a  
9 panel to discuss RFID technology before the European  
10 Commission.

11 Q. Now, has CASPIAN ever engaged in grass-roots advocacy  
12 involving leafleting?

13 A. Yes, we have.

14 Q. And what approach has your organization and you yourself  
15 taken in using leafleting at a communicative device?

16 A. Well, in the past two events that I'm thinking of where we  
17 did use leafleting, we made ourselves available in public  
18 locations in front of retail spaces and were approached by  
19 members of the public who asked to speak with us, at which  
20 point we handed them a leaflet.

21 Q. And were you or other members of CASPIAN subject to any  
22 objections by law enforcement authorities or persons who were  
23 administering the forums in which you distributed leaflets?

24 A. Absolutely not. In fact, we worked closely with them to  
25 make sure that we were behaving appropriately in that venue.

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1 Q. Now, would it be fair to say that CASPIAN has developed a  
2 communications strategy regarding the use of RFID technology?

3 A. I think that would be accurate.

4 Q. And could you describe briefly what the objectives of that  
5 strategy are?

6 MR. HILDEBRAND: Objection, Your Honor. Again, I  
7 think we are spending too much time going into too much detail  
8 about CASPIAN's strategy and the content of their message.  
9 None of this has anything to do with the First Amendment  
10 standards for the rules at McCormick Place.

11 THE COURT: Well, there is a question as to whether  
12 or not they are going to be able to communicate their message  
13 in some effective way. I view that as -- you have offered them  
14 a place where they can engage in this activity, and I need to  
15 know what kind of message they are trying to get out to see  
16 whether the place you put them is an effective way to  
17 communicate it.

18 So I will accept the testimony. You may proceed.  
19 Objection overruled.

20 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

21 Q. Could you describe briefly for the Court what your  
22 objective is in terms of communicating information about RFID  
23 technology?

24 A. We have two objectives. One is to educate the public about  
25 this technology, which has been developed since 1999 with very



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1 little public awareness. So we hope to raise that public  
2 awareness given that now there is quite a bit of business  
3 awareness at least about what the technology is and what it can  
4 do. That's the first piece of our communications strategy.

5           The second piece is to communicate with the business  
6 leaders who have been invited to adopt this technology by its  
7 developers and proponents to the fact that there is  
8 considerable consumer opposition to it and that it does, in our  
9 opinion, pose considerable threats to consumer privacy and  
10 potential civil liberties as well.

11 Q. Have you adopted any particular devices or methods of  
12 communication in order to implement this objective?

13 A. Well, in our proposed event at McCormick Place, our goal is  
14 to communicate with business leaders who have been invited to  
15 attend this event to let them know of our opposition to the  
16 technology, to explain and have an opportunity to speak with  
17 them directly if they are interested in why it is that we  
18 oppose this technology.

19           One of our concerns is, having looked at the agenda  
20 for the three-day EPC symposium that's coming up at McCormick  
21 Place, this is the event sponsored by the developers of the  
22 technology in question, that less than 2 percent of that  
23 meeting is devoted to addressing any kind of consumer privacy  
24 or public issues relating to the deployment of the technology,  
25 and in that case it's only in track 3 of three different tracks



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1 that attendees can attend. I believe it's called Don't Forget  
2 the Public. So we have a sense there that if only one of three  
3 tracks is addressing it, less than 2 percent of the total time  
4 available, that perhaps that issue needs additional education,  
5 and we'd like to be available and make ourselves available to  
6 those business leaders to obtain that information.

7 Q. Now, in the complaint that we have filed on your behalf and  
8 in the evidentiary materials in support of that complaint, we  
9 have identified several different vehicles that you intend to  
10 use. One is t-shirts. Would you describe to the Court the  
11 t-shirt that you intend to use and why and how you are going to  
12 use the t-shirts.

13 A. Yeah, essentially a t-shirt, either white or colored with  
14 the words "STOP RFID" across the front to communicate to  
15 anybody who is a passerby that we are in opposition to the  
16 technology and let them know that we are people that they can  
17 speak with if they'd like to learn about opposition.

18 Q. And you have identified three different groups of people, I  
19 believe, who would wear t-shirts. The first group would be  
20 people outside of the building, is that correct?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the second group is people who would be inside the  
23 building, and where would they be located?

24 A. Well, the event is taking place in exhibition hall B-1 on  
25 the third floor of the hall, the grand concourse in McCormick

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1 Place. That's quite a wide pedestrian hallway there. People  
2 mill and can converse in that location.

3 We would like to be in that concourse somewhere, you  
4 know, within say 50 feet of that entrance so that, as people  
5 see us with our t-shirts on, if they'd like to speak with us,  
6 we'd be available to them for that purpose.

7 Q. I'd like you to turn your attention to what has been marked  
8 as Exhibit 4 in the documents submitted by the defendants  
9 titled "Affidavit of Thomas Mobley." Could you turn to that  
10 exhibit, please. I believe it's a color photograph.

11 You just described the grand concourse area outside  
12 the meeting room. Is that contained in Exhibit 4?

13 A. Yes, it is, and in fact on the left you see the B-1 with  
14 the four entrances to that exhibit hall.

15 Q. Now, as we understand the position as it's been refined by  
16 the defendants, they have indicated at page 8 and footnote 2 of  
17 their memoranda that they wish to, I'll read it, "The authority  
18 wishes to make clear that it has no policy banning persons from  
19 wearing expressive t-shirts, buttons, and the like, or from  
20 engaging in conversations with other visitors at McCormick  
21 Place. To the extent plaintiff heard otherwise, she  
22 misunderstood or was misinformed.

23 "However, for most private events in McCormick Place,  
24 it is the show managers that control access. They are free to  
25 impose limits on attendance as they see fit, including dress

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1 codes, but not, of course, illegal limits that would constitute  
2 discrimination or similar violation of the law."

3           So we are talking about apparently now the defendants  
4 allowing you to enter this concourse area with your t-shirts  
5 on, and they would allow you to engage in conversations with  
6 other visitors. Do you understand that?

7 A. That's my understanding today. That was not my  
8 understanding initially when we contacted McCormick Place.

9 Q. Now, given those circumstances, as you look at Exhibit 4,  
10 where would you intend to be with up to nine other persons, I  
11 believe is the request that we have made in the complaint,  
12 where would you intend to be with others within this area  
13 identified in Exhibit 4?

14 A. Well, if you look on the left, you can see it's somewhat  
15 cut off, but there is a B-1 and then the words north, north,  
16 north, north. Those four north signs constitute the entryway  
17 to exhibit hall B-1, and having been there on Saturday, I can  
18 say that's over 100 feet wide. We would like to be somewhere  
19 outside of that, clearly not blocking traffic, but where we  
20 would also be visible to people entering that exhibit hall.

21 Q. And would you also consider placing yourself across from  
22 the area of B-1?

23 A. Well, as seen from this image here, down the middle of the  
24 concourse there is places for people to congregate and  
25 converse. Provided that we weren't blocking traffic, I think

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1 that would be appropriate as well.

2 Q. Now, you indicated to the Court that you attended a meeting  
3 at McCormick Place last June, I believe, is that correct?

4 A. That's correct. That's the event at which I spoke on this  
5 issue, yes.

6 Q. And at that time were there other events going on at  
7 McCormick Place?

8 A. Yes, there were.

9 Q. Do you know the nature of those events?

10 A. Let's see. There was the Chicago, I want to call it Retail  
11 Conference. I think that's the shorthand for it. It was quite  
12 a large event with many attendees.

13 Q. Did you have an opportunity to be within the grand  
14 concourse in the area around meeting room B-1 that's depicted  
15 on Exhibit No. 4?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. And on those occasions, was that concourse more crowded  
18 than it is in this picture?

19 A. No, it was not.

20 Q. Now, there was a third area that you were also going to  
21 wear t-shirts in, is that correct?

22 A. That's correct.

23 Q. And that was to be within the room itself, within B-1, is  
24 that correct?

25 A. Correct.

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1 THE COURT: Wait. The first area was in the  
2 concourse?

3 MR. GROSSMAN: The first area was outside the  
4 building.

5 THE COURT: Oh, outside the building, okay.

6 BY THE WITNESS:

7 A. I don't know that we have discussed outside the building.

8 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

9 Q. I intend to return to outside the building.

10 Now, the third area that you wish to wear t-shirts  
11 was actually in the meeting room B-1, is that correct?

12 A. Yes, the EPC symposium has a policy where any individual  
13 apparently can purchase a \$75 pass that gives them access to  
14 the exhibit hall during the day or for a single day.

15 Q. And you intend to buy that?

16 A. Yes.

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, just for clarification, to  
18 the extent that our papers sought an order from this Court  
19 regulating the plaintiff or her group's access or expression  
20 within the meeting room B-1, we are going to not pursue that  
21 based on the representations made in the footnote. So the only  
22 areas that we will be concerned about will be the areas outside  
23 of the building and this concourse area.

24 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let me just clarify. If the  
25 person who is selling the \$75 ticket decides that, once Miss

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1 Albrecht enters wearing what they may consider to be an  
2 offensive t-shirt, decides to remove her from inside B-1, you  
3 are not asking me to deal with that issue?

4 MR. GROSSMAN: That's correct.

5 THE COURT: Okay.

6 MR. GROSSMAN: We did not have clarification on that  
7 prior to filing these papers.

8 THE COURT: So is it my understanding then that it's  
9 your position that coming into the grand concourse, anybody can  
10 come in off the street into the grand concourse?

11 MR. GROSSMAN: Yes, Your Honor. We understand that  
12 to be the defendants' position.

13 THE COURT: Okay, and that the \$75 ticket is  
14 necessary to enter the meeting room B-1?

15 MR. GROSSMAN: That's correct, Judge.

16 THE COURT: Go ahead.

17 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

18 Q. Now, based on your experience in leafleting as well as  
19 having attended the conference at McCormick Place last June, do  
20 you believe that you will be able to, assuming that you are  
21 wearing a t-shirt and engaging in conversation with other  
22 visitors including other people who are attending the meeting  
23 room B-1, do you believe that you will be able to distribute  
24 leaflets at that same time and place in a manner that will not  
25 block ingress or egress to the building or create any kind of a



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1 safety issue?

2 A. Yes, I do believe we can safely do that.

3 Q. Did you have occasion to have discussions with other  
4 persons in the concourse last June?

5 A. Actually, I did.

6 Q. Do you carry business cards with you?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Do you ever distribute those business cards?

9 A. I do.

10 Q. Did you have occasion to distribute business cards incident  
11 to conversations in June?

12 A. I don't know if I did so in the grand concourse, but I  
13 certainly did within McCormick Place on a number of occasions.

14 Q. I'd like to address your attention now to what has been  
15 marked as Exhibit 9 in the submission by the defendants titled  
16 "Affidavit of Thomas Mobley."

17 Do you understand that in the first illustration  
18 contained in Exhibit 9, the top half of the page, that the  
19 yellow area near the pylons is designated as the free speech  
20 area?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you have occasion, or are you familiar with that area?

23 A. I am.

24 Q. And can you describe to the Court why you are familiar with  
25 that area?

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1 A. I'm familiar with that area both having visited it recently  
2 to refresh my memory on Saturday and also having spent  
3 essentially two, I believe two and a half days at a conference  
4 in June at McCormick Place which took place in this variety of  
5 different buildings, so I am familiar with that location.

6 Q. And where do you believe, based on your experience, will be  
7 the exterior ingress and egress for persons attending the  
8 convention meeting that you are concerned with?

9 A. Based on my own personal experience of having come there in  
10 a taxi, the taxi, and it's not really clear from this diagram,  
11 perhaps on the other exhibit shows it more clearly, but around  
12 that pylon is a circular driveway. Taxis actually bypass the  
13 pylons altogether, drive into the circular area, and drop off  
14 pedestrian traffic right there at the entrance to the building.

15 Other pedestrian entrances which I actually used at  
16 that time include a pedestrian walkway, which actually crosses  
17 the street from above by passing the pylons altogether, and I  
18 also entered the building from the Hyatt Hotel, which any guest  
19 doing so would do so from the inside.

20 Q. Would it be correct, looking at Exhibit 9, that the area  
21 that's marked Gate 4 and is the blue front of that building,  
22 the dark blue front of the building is approximately where the  
23 gate is that you believe people will enter?

24 A. That's the entrance that pedestrian traffic coming out of  
25 taxis or private cars would go in through.

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1 Q. I'd like you to turn to Exhibit 11 now.

2 Can you identify the entryway that is of particular  
3 interest to you?

4 A. Yes, it's sort of to the right center. It's actually that  
5 glass wide entryway. To the right of it there is a sort of  
6 yellow billboard sign. So it's sort of in the distance there.

7 Q. And can you identify the structure running along the  
8 left-hand side of this photograph?

9 A. That is one of the pylons.

10 Q. So this designations area for free speech that you have  
11 made reference to in Exhibit 9, the yellow area, is  
12 approximately where this pylon on the left-hand side of this  
13 photograph, Exhibit 11, is located, is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. And have you walked that distance between the front entry  
16 Gate 4 and the distance of the pylon?

17 A. Yes, I have.

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, excuse me. I'd like to  
19 object to this line of questioning. We had understood that  
20 testimony this morning -- this afternoon, I should say -- would  
21 be limited to subject matters raised in the complaint, and it  
22 appears that opposing counsel is now using his witness to  
23 introduce our free speech area. We think that's inappropriate.  
24 It was also undisclosed, so it's outside the scope of what we  
25 expected to deal with.

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 THE COURT: Yes. I think I am going to sustain the  
2 objection. I think we can just argue that from the exhibits  
3 themselves.

4 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, just to clarify the  
5 record, I object to the characterization. What we have told  
6 the defendants is we were going to cover the matters in the  
7 complaint, and if there is any problem with that -- this is our  
8 only witness to do that with, and so they have verified  
9 virtually their entire background section, every single  
10 statement that's in their memoranda through a simple statement  
11 of verification.

12 THE COURT: Okay. Well, I am, you know, I'm still a  
13 little unclear as to where the free speech area is when I look  
14 at Exhibit 11.

15 MR. GROSSMAN: Okay. I am trying to clarify that.

16 THE COURT: And I think we can do that really without  
17 the witness. I mean, in other words, defense counsel can point  
18 it out in here, and if later there is some disagreement, your  
19 witness wants to come on for that, that's fine. But I think  
20 there shouldn't be a dispute as to where it is and how far it  
21 is and those kinds of things. I was more concerned about  
22 what's the message that she's trying to communicate, what she  
23 feels to be an effective message, and then I'll deal with what  
24 McCormick Place has done based on what's out here.

25 MR. GROSSMAN: Okay.

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

2 Q. Would you turn your attention to Exhibit 15.

3 Can you identify the area between the pylons?

4 A. That would be the first amendment area designated by  
5 McCormick Place.

6 Q. And do you object to having to speak there and give out  
7 your leaflets in that area?

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 Q. Could you tell the Court why.

10 A. Yes, because, as we pointed out, very few pedestrians are  
11 going to pass down that section of sidewalk given the majority  
12 of people entering the building will either be doing so from  
13 the other side entirely from the interior of McCormick Place,  
14 they will be doing so from a circular driveway which actually  
15 passes right in front of that black door in the distance there,  
16 or they will be doing so through the hotel, which is actually  
17 visible over there to the left which would also be an internal  
18 entrance.

19 Our concern is that if we are in that location, the  
20 business people who have actually expressed an interest in  
21 speaking with us would have to actually walk all the way  
22 outside of the building and basically what amounts to half a  
23 block away in order to even find us, if they even knew we were  
24 there.

25 Q. Do cars stop along the pylons?

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, I move to strike, lack  
3 of foundation. This witness has visited McCormick Place once  
4 or twice, and I don't believe she's competent to enter this  
5 type of testimony.

6 THE COURT: Objection sustained for the simple reason  
7 that, you know, the defendants, given the short time frame,  
8 have not been in a position. I don't want to make certain  
9 factual findings about that. Unless the parties will stipulate  
10 to certain facts, I don't want to rely on the plaintiff's  
11 testimony, because it would be unfair to the defendants who  
12 don't have a witness here to come and address that.

13 Like I say, the thing I'm concerned about is what's  
14 the type of message that she was trying to get across, how was  
15 she trying to get it across, and why she feels what McCormick  
16 Place is providing to her is either effective or not effective.

17 And that's simply for the purposes of the TRO today.  
18 Later on we can address a lot of other things, but I want to  
19 deal with this issue.

20 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, may I review what is  
21 physically located, based on her observations, in that area?

22 THE COURT: Well, I'll let you argue. I mean, in  
23 other words, you can use these pictures and argue. You don't  
24 need her to testify to it. If there's some confusion, we'll  
25 try to work it out with McCormick Place counsel to see if we



Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 can agree what's there and what's not there.

2 MR. GROSSMAN: Okay, Your Honor.

3 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

4 Q. What kind of information do you intend to include in a  
5 leaflet that you will distribute tomorrow?

6 A. We would like to essentially inform business leaders that  
7 there is, there are consumer privacy concerns around this  
8 technology and that there is consumer opposition to the  
9 technology. One of the things we are concerned the business  
10 leaders have not been told is the fact that, according to the  
11 auto-ID center -- that's the organization sponsoring this  
12 event -- according to their own internal documents, 78 percent  
13 of the public, when they learn about this technology, are  
14 opposed to it on privacy grounds.

15 We feel that it is in the interest of those business  
16 leaders to be aware of the fact that they are not being fully  
17 informed about consumer opinion and consumer concerns over the  
18 technology that they are being asked to adopt as a result of  
19 this symposium or at the symposium.

20 Q. And why put information like that into the form of a  
21 leaflet? What is the use of that in terms of communication?

22 A. Well, I think the idea is that many people may not have  
23 time to stand and converse with us one on one at length to  
24 learn that information. They may be interested in having it in  
25 order to review it at a later point. Handing it to them in a

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1 written form gives them something they can remember and look  
2 over. Even those individuals who do have time to speak with us  
3 may want to be able to contact us later. That leaflet would  
4 have both a phone number and a web site address where they  
5 could learn, go to and learn more about our organization and  
6 our\_views.

7 Q. Now, you also intend to -- and you intend to distribute  
8 leaflets outside the McCormick building, is that correct?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. And to also distribute leaflets inside the McCormick  
11 building in the grand concourse area?

12 A. Right.

13 Q. You also intend to use signs outside, is that correct?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And can you describe what those signs are about?

16 A. A sign might say, you know, "Think wise before adapting."  
17 It might say, "Please hear our views." It might say,  
18 "Consumers in overwhelming majority oppose RFID technology,"  
19 simply letting them know that we are a source of information on  
20 that if they would like to approach us.

21 Q. And what about face-to-face communication? What role does  
22 that play in getting your message out.

23 A. I think it actually plays quite a large role in that we are  
24 pretty much their only source of information. Primarily when  
25 we've done events like this in the past, we have designated one

Albrecht - direct by Grossman

1 or two people as spokespeople. Other people have just handed  
2 out leaflets or been able to do that when asked. So  
3 face-to-face communication, clearly I'd like to be able to  
4 speak to the business leaders and answer any questions they  
5 might have about the technology and our views.

6 MR. GROSSMAN: Could you just give me one moment,  
7 Your Honor?

8 THE COURT: Sure.

9 (Pause.)

10 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, I would like to briefly  
11 return to Exhibit 4 just to clarify the area in the grand  
12 concourse that she wishes, that Miss Albrecht wishes to utilize  
13 for speech purposes. I will not be unduly long.

14 BY MR. GROSSMAN:

15 Q. Are there commercial activities or facilities along this  
16 area?

17 A. I believe there is a food court, and there is a lounge.  
18 I'm not sure where it is exactly in relation to this, but  
19 certainly in the grand concourse, there are at least six  
20 restaurants in the food court, and there is a Kinko copy or I'm  
21 not sure if it is Kinko's, but there's a copy facility and a  
22 number of other businesses in there.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, I am going object again  
24 to foundation.

25 THE COURT: I am going to sustain the objection.

Albrecht - cross by Hildebrand

1 Mr. Grossman, to the extent you want to establish that kind of  
2 information, you can just establish it. In other words,  
3 without this witness. And if there is some disagreement, I'll  
4 look to counsel from McCormick Place to say there either is or  
5 is not a food court there, or either is or is not --

6 MR. GROSSMAN: That's fine, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: -- a copy machine. This is not -- that  
8 was not the purpose for my letting her testify.

9 MR. GROSSMAN: Okay. We understand that.

10 That's all we have.

11 THE COURT: Thank you.

12 Any cross-examination?

13 MR. HILDEBRAND: Briefly, Your Honor.

14 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hildebrand.

15 What my concern is from a First Amendment standpoint  
16 is what's the type of message that the plaintiff is trying to  
17 get out, and does she have a way of getting it out absent  
18 what's going on here, or have you provided a mechanism for her  
19 to get it out, or are you even required to provide a mechanism?  
20 Those are the issues I'm focused on with this witness for this  
21 hearing.

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: Right.

23 THE COURT: You may proceed, Mr. Hildebrand.

24 CROSS-EXAMINATION

25 BY MR. HILDEBRAND:

Albrecht - cross by Hildebrand

1 Q. A few follow-up questions about your organization CASPIAN.

2 Is that a legal entity?

3 A. No. It's an affiliation of consumers.

4 Q. So it hasn't been organized or chartered in any fashion?

5 A. No.

6 Q. It doesn't pay taxes?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Okay. Now, have you sought access to the symposium  
9 involving this technology going on at McCormick Place tomorrow?

10 A. We were told it would cost over a thousand dollars to  
11 attend this event, and we don't have the budget to allow all of  
12 the people of interest who would be interested in communicating  
13 to pay a thousand dollars a head to enter the event.

14 Q. Excuse me. I didn't hear the end of your answer.

15 A. To pay a thousand dollars or over a thousand dollars apiece  
16 to enter the event.

17 Q. Do you have a budget to send one person?

18 THE WITNESS: Is that a relevant question? As to our  
19 budget on this?

20 THE COURT: Well, I'm a little unclear. Was the  
21 question directed to what it would cost to be a presenter? Is  
22 that the idea?

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: No, it was simply to attend the EPC  
24 symposium and speak to whoever she wants to.

25 THE COURT: I thought that was \$75. Am I missing

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1 something?

2 THE WITNESS: Yes. There's two ways to access the  
3 event. For over a thousand dollars per person, one gets full  
4 access to the event for the full three days that it takes  
5 place. They can go into the speeches, the talks, in the  
6 theaters. For \$75 they are actually barred entry to those  
7 theaters where most of the attendance will be for most of the  
8 day, and they only gain access to the exhibit halls where, or  
9 the exhibits where vendors are demonstrating their wares.

10 THE COURT: Thank you.

11 BY MR. HILDEBRAND:

12 Q. Okay. So if I understand your answer, you testified that  
13 your group could not afford the roughly thousand dollars per  
14 person fee to take a number of people into the full-blown  
15 three-day symposium and talk to whoever you wanted to?

16 A. I think it would be more appropriate to say we did not  
17 think it was in our interest to pay a thousand dollars per  
18 person in order to go and sit in the audience to hear other  
19 people give speeches on this topic.

20 Q. Did you try to get yourself invited to the symposium?

21 A. I did not.

22 Q. Did you ask if they would be willing to waive the fee so  
23 they could have an opportunity to talk to consumers and hear  
24 their point of view on this important new technology?

25 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, we are going to object



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1 simply because the defendants themselves through their own  
2 papers have made the meeting room, that is, where the private  
3 speech is taking place, irrelevant to this controversy.

4           The question before this Court is in the public  
5 spaces in which public, in which persons are allowed free  
6 access without regard to whether they are paying a thousand  
7 dollars or not paying a thousand dollars, may, in addition to  
8 wearing a t-shirt and engaging in conversations with other  
9 persons, may, in fact, this particular plaintiff and the  
10 persons with whom she associates, distribute a leaflet, because  
11 that's the only issue that's left inside.

12           And as to outside, not limited to persons who are  
13 paying a thousand dollars to attend the symposium, may she  
14 stand close to the door or must she be hundreds of feet away at  
15 the pylons?

16           Those are the questions that are left before this  
17 Court.

18           THE COURT: Mr. Hildebrand?

19           MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, I think the questions go  
20 to and illustrate a spillover problem in this case, and they go  
21 to the reasonableness of the Authority's policies. You know,  
22 the Authority is in the business of putting on conventions.  
23 And the way this whole system works is that people pay money to  
24 attend the things, and if it is very easy for anyone who kind  
25 of wants to make themselves heard and get involved but doesn't

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1 want to pay the fee, to stand outside and mingle and get  
2 involved, that is, we think that is a threat to our operational  
3 purpose, and that's part of what I am trying to elicit here.

4 THE COURT: I don't believe that the First Amendment  
5 has an alternative requirement that if you can afford the  
6 thousand dollars, then that becomes your mechanism for  
7 communicating.

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, I would certainly agree with  
9 that, Your Honor, but I guess the questions go to pointing out  
10 that she hasn't explored other means of communicating with  
11 these people, which might be possibly be free and move this  
12 whole dispute. We don't know whether, if she had asked to be  
13 invited, whether she'd be there talking to them tomorrow  
14 without a need for a TRO and us working all weekend. So that  
15 was, I guess, the thrust of my question.

16 THE COURT: Obviously, alternative means of  
17 communication is a factor that the courts have considered --

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Right.

19 THE COURT: -- in the cases, so I will let you  
20 explore that to see whether -- but paying for it doesn't cut it  
21 as far as the case law goes. But there were alternative means  
22 that she can get the same message across, I would listen to  
23 that.

24 MR. GROSSMAN: We would just for the record clarify  
25 our position. Alternative channels of communication are

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1 unquestionably relevant, but they are government-provided  
2 alternative channels of communication, not privately-provided  
3 alternative channels of communication under the case law.

4 THE COURT: Very good.

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: Actually, Your Honor, we would  
6 dispute that the time, place, manner analysis is relevant to  
7 the nonpublic forum at all. The test is whether the  
8 restriction is reasonable, but we'll get to that a little  
9 later.

10 THE COURT: We'll get into the legal argument as to  
11 whether it's a public forum or nonpublic forum, but go ahead  
12 and cover the factual issue.

13 BY MR. HILDEBRAND:

14 Q. This is by way of clarifying prior testimony.

15 Did you say you did intend to purchase the \$75 passes  
16 or did not? I don't remember your answer.

17 A. I personally do intend to purchase a \$75 pass to the  
18 exhibit.

19 Q. And how many of your compatriots will be doing the same?

20 A. My estimate is about ten people would like to do that.

21 Q. Okay.

22 A. I'm sorry. Five people. Ten people would like to be in  
23 the building, and we discussed five people.

24 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, might we have a standing  
25 objection to this line of questioning?

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1 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

2 BY MR. HILDEBRAND:

3 Q. What other efforts have you made to contact the persons  
4 putting on the EPC symposium and make your views known to them?

5 A. We have sent repeated letters to the auto-ID center on  
6 behalf of consumers that have gone unanswered. We have sent  
7 repeated letters both to the board of overseers of the auto-ID  
8 center and to its director. We have sent letters to  
9 vice-president of Gillette, and Dick Cantwell, who also is the  
10 chair of the board of overseers of the auto-ID center, who is  
11 actually going to be giving the speech which we will be outside  
12 of at, to coincide with his speech given at 10 o'clock tomorrow  
13 morning. Those letters have gone unanswered. Despite repeated  
14 attempts to communicate with those individuals, they have  
15 simply refused to respond to us despite saying that they would,  
16 and we have waited, and we've waited. We sent certified  
17 letters and attempted in many ways to communicate with them.

18 Q. Okay, and I don't recall if you answered my prior question.  
19 Did you ask to be invited yourself or any member of your group?

20 A. Even at this event --

21 Q. Let me finish my question, please.

22 Did you ask to be invited, you or any member of your  
23 group, to the EPC symposium so you could speak and express your  
24 views?

25 A. We did not. Given that we had not received responses to

1 our previous communications with them, we simply assumed that  
2 if they won't answer their letter, they probably won't let us  
3 into their event for free.

4 Q. Okay.

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, if I may have a moment  
6 to confer with co-counsel?

7 THE COURT: Yes, you may.

8 (Pause.)

9 MR. HILDEBRAND: Nothing further, Your Honor.  
10 Thank you, Miss Albrecht.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Grossman, any redirect?

12 MR. GROSSMAN: No, Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Okay. You may step down. Thank you very  
14 much.

15 (Witness excused.)

16 THE COURT: Okay. It may just be easier to argue the  
17 case from right where you are seated so you can spread out your  
18 papers. So if you are comfortable there -- do you intend to  
19 call a witness?

20 MR. HILDEBRAND: I don't intend to call a witness,  
21 Your Honor, but I do feel a bit far afield out here. I think I  
22 would be more comfortable a little closer to Your Honor, and I  
23 am happy to stand beside co-counsel.

24 THE COURT: That's fine.

25 So let me tell you what I'd like to do. Let's see if

1 we can define the various issues that come into play here,  
2 okay?

3 I think the first issue, the first issue is what type  
4 of forum are we dealing with? Is that a reasonable first  
5 issue? Okay.

6 And there are three different types of forum  
7 potentially, a traditional public forum, a designated public  
8 forum, and a nonpublic forum. Do I have those right? Okay.

9 My inclination is that this is a nonpublic forum.  
10 That's my inclination. So who wants to address on the  
11 plaintiff's side why I am wrong on that? Or you can agree with  
12 me.

13 Based on the case law as I see it, at least in this  
14 circuit, if Navy Pier is a nonpublic forum, it would be hard  
15 for me to imagine how McCormick Place, which I view as less  
16 accessible to the public than Navy Pier, becomes something  
17 other than a nonpublic forum. But, Mr. Schwartz, do you want  
18 to address that?

19 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes, Your Honor. There are --

20 THE COURT: And if you want to come up here, you are  
21 free to come up here. If you want to sit there, whatever you  
22 are comfortable with.

23 MR. SCHWARTZ: I'll just stay right here.

24 There are several sets of facts that plaintiff  
25 believes support the proposition that both of the venues that



1 we are talking about here are traditional public forums, and  
2 what I mean by that, number one, is the public grassy part to  
3 the rest of Gate 4 and, number two, the grand concourse.

4           The overriding function of McCormick Place is  
5 expressive activity. Millions of people come to McCormick  
6 Place every day of the year for purposes of engaging in  
7 association and expression on every conceivable issue affecting  
8 our society. It's trade organizations, it's professional  
9 organizations, it's businesses, it's religious organizations,  
10 it's governmental organizations. Last month there were  
11 thousands if not tens of thousands of Muslim Americans gathered  
12 at McCormick Place to talk about every issue affecting them,  
13 including the civil liberties implications of life after  
14 September 11.

15           It's a location where government officials come to  
16 participate in these kinds of venues, it's a location to which  
17 the holders of these conventions summon the media.

18           It is fitting for a venue like this, where people are  
19 engaging in the conversations about the important economic and  
20 political issues of our times, that there be alternative voices  
21 heard in this venue -- that there be alternative voices in this  
22 venue.

23           Specifically as to the outside park --

24           THE COURT: Well, let me just say, the fact that  
25 there is an outside park tied into McCormick Place, I'm not

1 sure that that makes McCormick Place a traditional public  
2 forum. I mean, if you want to separate the outside park area,  
3 but it's my understanding that one of the areas where they can  
4 do what they, you know, the public expression is in the outside  
5 park area. Am I wrong?

6 MR. SCHWARTZ: Let me just clarify, Your Honor.

7 The approach in such opinions as Acorn is, where  
8 appropriate, to break up a large multipurpose forum such as  
9 Navy Pier or in this case McCormick Place into constituent  
10 pieces, and what the plaintiff means to argue is that the park  
11 to the west is a traditional public forum and separately to  
12 argue that the grand concourse within McCormick Place is a  
13 traditional public forum.

14 THE COURT: Wouldn't the grand concourse be somewhat  
15 analogous to an airport?

16 MR. SCHWARTZ: In some ways, yes; in some ways, no.  
17 An airport is, has two functions going under ISKCON versus Lee.  
18 One is a transportation hub, and the other is as a mall.

19 McCormick Place has an additional function, which,  
20 again, is the gathering of millions and millions of people to  
21 engage in expressive and associational activity, a function  
22 that is not taking place largely within airports, perhaps some  
23 exceptions for --

24 THE COURT: However, I view the -- and these are all  
25 preliminary views simply for purposes of a TRO hearing. They

1 are not to be findings of fact in any way. I am just trying to  
2 deal with what I can glean from the papers and from the case  
3 law.

4           It seems to me that in order to go into these various  
5 rooms at McCormick Place, when you are bringing in thousands of  
6 people, I mean, you have to have a hall to get them in. In  
7 other words, in contrast to a park where you are inviting  
8 people to be outside in the park and, you know, Grant Park, and  
9 the case I had was a t-shirt case involving Grant Park, I found  
10 that to be a traditional public forum.

11           I have a tough time where people cannot -- I'm not  
12 aware that you can just walk into McCormick Place 24/7 and just  
13 walk around the grand concourse. Maybe you can, maybe I'm  
14 missing that, but it's not my perception that that's a place  
15 where people hang out generally or where you could expect other  
16 people to come see you delivering public speeches. So I am  
17 having a tough time finding that to be a traditional public  
18 forum at this point.

19           MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, if I could interpose a  
20 quick point of clarification on the record?

21           THE COURT: Yes.

22           MR. HILDEBRAND: This came up earlier in the context  
23 of Miss Albrecht's testimony, and actually if I could take a  
24 moment to introduce the general counsel of the Metropolitan  
25 Pier and Exposition Authority, Renee Benjamin, who is here with

1 us at the table.

2 THE COURT: Good morning, Ms. Benjamin.

3 MR. HILDEBRAND: She, of course, is much more  
4 familiar with the facility than I am and reminded me that, at  
5 times, the staircase that leads up into the upper level of the  
6 grand concourse does in fact require you to show an ID badge,  
7 essentially indicating that you have been admitted to whatever  
8 is going on up there in the hallway. So the ingress and egress  
9 checkpoints differ depending on the function that's in the  
10 space. That wasn't clear from our papers, frankly, because it  
11 just wasn't clear to me as an operational matter when I was  
12 doing the drafting.

13 We believe that Miss Albrecht will have access to  
14 walk as a pedestrian in the grand concourse tomorrow, but to be  
15 honest, without the general manager sitting here, I can't say  
16 that for certain one way or the other.

17 THE COURT: I mean, and even that, the Colorado case,  
18 the Hawkins case that was cited to me, as I read that case, I  
19 mean, that also seemed to be a McCormick Place type setting  
20 where, you know, you had to have a way for people to get in to  
21 experience the theater and the other things that were going on  
22 in that area, and I believe there they also found that it was  
23 a -- what do they call it -- a nonpublic forum. Did I read  
24 that case right?

25 MR. SCHWARTZ: Speaking to the issue of whether this

1 is a traditional public forum, there are several factors that  
2 we think we want to emphasize.

3           The first is that we, our experience in the last  
4 week, everyone at the plaintiff's table has gone to McCormick  
5 Place over different visits, and we could walk in the front  
6 door without anyone stopping us. You can walk into the grand  
7 concourse, you can walk into the restaurant, you can sit down  
8 at a sofa and have a coffee, you can admire the art, you can  
9 admire the fountains, you can walk up to people and speak to  
10 them.

11           So it is a largely unrestricted environment. I don't  
12 know if the front gates are always open, but that would not  
13 make it unanalogous to a traditional public forum, which is a  
14 grassy park where there is a ban on people being there at night  
15 for the purpose of safety and security.

16           We believe that Denver Galleria, where, yes, they did  
17 find -- that is the Colorado case you referenced, but the  
18 Denver Galleria did find that it was a nonpublic forum, but  
19 that venue was different in several respects. The function of  
20 that forum was to act basically as a lobby for artistic  
21 performances. But, again, the purpose of McCormick Place is  
22 much broader. It's not just artistic performances; it's people  
23 gathered to talk about every important issue, whether it's  
24 politics or economics, facing our society. So it's a much  
25 broader forum.

1           THE COURT: See, but this is the kind of issue that I  
2 think would need a more comprehensive factual record in which  
3 to make, because while you may argue that it is for the  
4 discussion of public policy, I mean, defendants may, at least  
5 in their papers, say it is really for commercial purposes.

6           So at least for purposes of this TRO hearing, I am  
7 going to find that you have not, you have not demonstrated a  
8 likelihood of success of establishing that it's a traditional  
9 public forum and that -- and it certainly has not been a  
10 designated public forum that I'm aware of, so I am going to  
11 treat it as a nonpublic forum at least for purposes of the TRO  
12 hearing. And, once again, you certainly can make your case out  
13 with a fuller record, but these are the cases I am looking at  
14 now, and these are the areas that I am concerned with.

15           Okay. So let's move on. What's the next issue for  
16 analysis once I have established what type of public setting it  
17 is? Mr. Schwartz, what's the next thing we have to talk about?

18           MR. SCHWARTZ: If we assume that these are nonpublic  
19 forums, we analyze it for reasonableness under Perry and other  
20 decisions. We know from Perry and from Lee and from the Acorn  
21 decision that this is highly fact intensive, that the Court  
22 would look at the special attributes of the facility and that  
23 every facility is potentially unique for the purposes of this  
24 analysis.

25           Among the facts -- and I'll separately treat on the



1 reasonableness of the policy in the grand concourse and the  
2 outdoors area. Everything we have stated earlier about the  
3 basic factual nature of McCormick Place we think is important  
4 here as well. The question is whether the speech restriction  
5 in this case, a flat ban on all expressive activity anywhere  
6 inside McCormick Place, is reasonable and likewise whether the  
7 ban on expressive activity outside of McCormick Place with the  
8 narrow exception of this designated location by the five pylons  
9 is reasonable, and the plaintiff believes that it is not.

10           Within the grand concourse, the proposed activity is  
11 fully compatible with all of the government's purposes and  
12 goals in running this multipurpose forum, and, again, it's a  
13 convention center, it's a place for people to go back and forth  
14 between rooms, it's a place for people to gather, admiring the  
15 art, admiring the fountains, to talk with each other. It's a  
16 mall where people can buy t-shirts, get a back rub, go to the  
17 business center, buy some fudge, any number of dozens of  
18 businesses inside this location.

19           There is a critical statement on page 8 of the  
20 defendants' written submission in footnote 2 where the  
21 defendant states that, and Mr. Grossman read this before, but  
22 I'll read it again:

23           "The Authority wishes to make clear that it has no  
24 policy banning persons from wearing expressive t-shirts,  
25 buttons, and the like or from engaging in conversation with

1 other visitors at McCormick Place."

2           So what this looks like is someone, for example, from  
3 Ms. Albrecht's organization standing there wearing a t-shirt,  
4 and someone walks up to them and says, "I'm interested in why  
5 you want to stop our RFID; please tell me," and they have a  
6 conversation about it within this grand concourse or outside in  
7 this park. But the defendants want to stop Ms. Albrecht in  
8 that situation from handing out a leaflet, which doesn't make  
9 any sense, it's just inherently unreasonable. There is nothing  
10 that would happen when someone wears a t-shirt or engages in a  
11 conversation with passersby that isn't happening when -- and  
12 vice versa when someone hands out a leaflet. In fact, the  
13 handing out of a leaflet might be less intrusive to any  
14 governmental interests than this conversation inasmuch as the  
15 information can be transmitted far more rapidly.

16           In terms of the out-of-door location --

17           THE COURT: Let's stay with the indoor. Let's just  
18 stop at the indoor.

19           And, Mr. Hildebrand, do you want to address with me  
20 why it is reasonable to bar any of this activity indoors.

21           MR. HILDEBRAND: Yes, Your Honor. In the first  
22 place, I'd like to dispute the analytic rubric that this  
23 aggregates the forum, because I don't think that's the way it  
24 works. I think you take McCormick Place as a whole, and you  
25 look at whether, as a whole, the Authority provides a

1 reasonable opportunity for people to express their views.

2 But stepping with the dialogue back into the grand  
3 concourse --

4 THE COURT: Well, let me tell you what my concern is.

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

6 THE COURT: Let me tell you what my concern is in  
7 terms of reasonableness, just generally speaking.

8 I don't conceptually have a problem with McCormick  
9 Place setting aside an area that they think is one that they  
10 can control for safety reasons, for traffic control, things of  
11 that sort.

12 My concern is, having said that, whether they are  
13 providing or whether they are required to provide an area which  
14 is accessible for permitting the message to be gotten across.  
15 So that, you know, even in a public forum, you can set aside an  
16 area, but if you take everybody and put them out in left field  
17 where nobody is going to see them, is that reasonable?

18 And my question is without an indoor location, is it  
19 reasonable that the message can be gotten across and why isn't  
20 it that you cannot provide a space that you can control indoors  
21 to permit the plaintiff to have a chance for First Amendment  
22 activity or do you feel -- help me analyze that question.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: I understand your question, Your  
24 Honor, and I think I can give you some comfort that the correct  
25 answer is that the government may prohibit all leafleting

1 inside the concourse of McCormick Place.

2           A couple reasons why. First of all, the rule is that  
3 the accommodation to speech need only be reasonable in light of  
4 the intended uses and purpose of the forum. There are several  
5 cases, Your Honor, including the Grossbaum decision in this  
6 circuit, which make it clear that in the lobbies of  
7 government-owned buildings, it is permissible for the  
8 government to enact a flat ban on expressive activities. A lot  
9 of speech happens in this courthouse, Your Honor, in the  
10 courtrooms here on issues of public importance, and yet,  
11 nevertheless, you know, the circuit executive here is entirely  
12 within his rights, or GSA or whoever it is, to have a flat ban  
13 on leafleting or any other kind of gatherings or assemblies in  
14 the lobby of this courthouse.

15           The same would be true, Your Honor, if the government  
16 were the proprietor of an office building. Let's imagine for a  
17 moment that the government has a large office building, it's  
18 partly vacant, and it leases a lot of space in that building to  
19 tenants. It's acting, in essence, as the proprietor of an  
20 office building, and there is no reason under First Amendment  
21 case law why the government cannot simply hire John Buck  
22 Company to post a couple security guards like all the other  
23 office buildings in this city do and run the office building  
24 like an office building. That's what it is.

25           The answer is, Your Honor, we have to look to the

1 intended purpose of the forum and, in that context, ask  
2 yourself whether the restriction is reasonable.

3 The fact of the matter is, Your Honor --

4 THE COURT: Let's look at McCormick Place. What do  
5 you say is the intended purpose, and tell me why this  
6 restriction is reasonable.

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: McCormick Place is set up to attract  
8 and host private business gatherings. Many of the events at  
9 McCormick Place can consider as an alternative to McCormick  
10 Place private facilities such as large privately-owned hotel  
11 conference centers which are not open to leafleting or any  
12 other forms of expressive activity in their corridors and  
13 outside their meeting rooms. And really it has to do  
14 substantially with customer expectations. You know, frankly,  
15 when you walk into McCormick Place, it looks kind of like an  
16 office building, it looks like a hotel conference center.  
17 Indeed, the Hyatt is right down the hall next door, and the  
18 expectation and environment created there is inconsistent with  
19 public expression. Now, it's not inconsistent with  
20 conversation in the hallways. But that's my answer.

21 THE COURT: Let me tell you the language of the  
22 Seventh Circuit case that piques my curiosity here. Looking at  
23 Chicago Acorn at 150 F.3d 695 at page, at page -- I don't see  
24 the page numbers here. It's a Westlaw printout here.

25 Headnote 16. I mean, the language yet while holding

1 that the airport was not a traditional public forum, the Court  
2 also held that the Krishnas were entitled to hand out leaflets  
3 in the public areas of the airport, citing International  
4 Society for Krishna Consciousness versus Lee.

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: I'm with you, Your Honor.

6 THE COURT: Okay. And that's, that's sort of the  
7 analogous situation that I am trying to think through here.  
8 Why isn't this analogous to that? I mean, I would agree with  
9 you that -- or you should agree with me that an airport is not,  
10 you know -- I mean, I found for you on the first issue, at  
11 least initially, it's not a nonpublic forum and that you could  
12 make the same argument that airports are competing for  
13 business, and it's not a place necessarily for free expression;  
14 it's, you know, for conducting business or whatever. But here  
15 the Court is saying, even in that kind of setting, you'd have  
16 to permit some place for leaflets to be distributed.

17 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, Your Honor, two answers.

18 First of all, I don't think airports compete for  
19 business in the same way that a conference center does. In  
20 other words, there is no private alternative, and people don't  
21 choose their flight routes based on the likelihood that they  
22 are going to encounter a leafleter. To this day, Your Honor --  
23 it's been years since I have known and been familiar with the  
24 ISKCON versus Lee decision -- I have yet to see ever a  
25 leafleter at a major airport. I think that's because there is



1 a tiny number of zones typically, I think in the Miami Dade  
2 County case, another airport case, there were a half a dozen or  
3 so sprinkled throughout a very large airport. They are out of  
4 sight and off to the side.

5 THE COURT: Well, all I am saying is, and my question  
6 is, I mean, why isn't there a zone in the main concourse, in  
7 the main concourse in an area -- and I have no problem with,  
8 you know, McCormick Place trying to create what the area is for  
9 safety and other reasons and be sure that it's not blocking  
10 anybody, but why isn't that required under the Chicago Acorn  
11 case or the Krishna case?

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: Two answers, Your Honor.

13 First of all, we do have a zone. It's very large and  
14 visible from many parts of the facility, and it's outside, and  
15 that distinguishes us from an airport. We are a more  
16 single-purpose facility than an airport.

17 And, secondly, Your Honor, I think the answer to that  
18 question is better answered on a full record and not for  
19 purposes of the TRO. You know, we don't have our witnesses  
20 here able to explain and make their record about the business  
21 purpose.

22 THE COURT: I understand.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: But we do believe there is a  
24 business purpose, and we also think our customers have a choice  
25 about where they go.

1           THE COURT: Well, but one of the things about being  
2 government is, you know, that's part of being government. You  
3 may have to do some things that a private business doesn't have  
4 to do, even if you are competing with them, even if you are  
5 competing with them. And in headnote 17 it says, "But as Navy  
6 Pier is publicly owned, it seems to us to come within the rule  
7 of the ISKCON case, and leafleting must be allowed, just as the  
8 First Circuit held in reliance on ISKCON with reference to the  
9 Boston subway in Jews for Jesus versus Massachusetts Bay  
10 Transportation Authority. There is no relevant difference  
11 between the sidewalks on Navy Pier and the public areas of the  
12 indoor shopping malls, both types of pathways or pedestrian  
13 walkways leading mainly to shops. The fact that one type has a  
14 roof over it and the other does not cannot make as large a  
15 difference as the district judge thought."

16           MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, our answer is, number  
17 one, the stark difference between Navy Pier and McCormick Place  
18 in terms of the variety and density of activities at Navy Pier  
19 in contrast to the very kind of austere, business-focused  
20 environment of McCormick Place. That's our first answer.

21           Our second answer is to take a look at the Hawkins  
22 case out of Denver and also the Fish Pier case, the Carpenters  
23 case out of Boston. We really think we are most on point with  
24 Hawkins, Your Honor, and it goes to the same sentiment that led  
25 the Court to think that when people get out of a concert, it's

1 really not appropriate and consistent with the purpose of that  
2 forum for them to be confronted with leafleters. That's not  
3 what the space is about, that's not what it was constructed  
4 for.

5           The same holds true at McCormick Place. McCormick  
6 Place is set up for people who want to get together and talk to  
7 one another about their own private business, but it is not set  
8 up for public debate. It's not set up so people who disagree  
9 with you can kind of have a shot at you when you are spending  
10 all this money to put on a private show. So we think  
11 Hawkins --

12           THE COURT: But there's all sorts of uses of  
13 McCormick Place. I mean, it's used for political purposes,  
14 it's used for private purposes. You know, anybody who is  
15 willing to pay the dime can rent the space in McCormick Place  
16 and come in and use it, I would think.

17           MR. HILDEBRAND: That's exactly right, Your Honor,  
18 but I guess in a sense that's our point. It's all private  
19 speech that happens. We are agnostic as far as what goes on  
20 once somebody signs a license agreement, consistent with safety  
21 and obviously running a secure facility.

22           THE COURT: So your answer is as long as you provide  
23 them some place to leaflet or hold their placards or  
24 communicate, it doesn't have to be in the main concourse?

25           MR. HILDEBRAND: It doesn't have to be in any

1 particular place, Your Honor.

2 And if I could, you know, part of the reasonableness  
3 inquiry is looking at what we do provide.

4 THE COURT: Okay.

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: And I want to talk about that.

6 THE COURT: Why don't we move on to that, because I  
7 think the two points are somewhat interlinked. Let me ask  
8 Mr. Schwartz to first address, given what McCormick Place  
9 provides, why is that inadequate? Why is that in some ways  
10 unreasonable? Is that a fair next step in the analysis?

11 MR. SCHWARTZ: I'd like to answer that. There are  
12 several points that plaintiff would like to just put on the  
13 table to respond to this, the colloquy between the Court and  
14 the defendant.

15 The first is that there is nothing unusual about  
16 there being expressive activity in lobbies of governmental  
17 buildings. For instance, there have been press conferences  
18 on numerous occasions within the lobby of this federal  
19 courthouse.

20 Second of all, it is important to emphasize the  
21 distinctions between this case and the other two cases that the  
22 defendants have just referenced, the Hawkins case and the Fish  
23 Pier case. Fish Pier is especially unrelated. Fish Pier  
24 involves -- this is the case out of Boston involving the  
25 carpenters' union.

1 Fish Pier is a largely commercial enterprise where  
2 fishing fleets are loading and unloading their wares. There  
3 are a small number of nonfish-related activities going on, but  
4 there is no sidewalks, there are trucks running back and forth,  
5 and there is a gate with a security card at the front end  
6 restricting public access. So there is no way that the  
7 McCormick Place facility resembles the Fish Pier in the  
8 carpenters case from the Second Circuit.

9 As to Hawkins, there are numerous additional  
10 restrictions. The lobby in question was a far narrower space,  
11 in many places 30 feet wide, whereas here we are talking about  
12 a much wider area. As well, there were only three stores. In  
13 McCormick Place there are dozens of stores. And, again, the  
14 designated activity at the Galleria was the arts and  
15 performances, whereas here we are talking about every political  
16 and economic issue affecting our society.

17 Additionally, the speech that was proposed in the  
18 Hawkins decision was a much more potentially intrusive speech.  
19 There they wanted to bring 25 people into the Galleria to  
20 engage in picketing, whereas here we want to bring 10 people  
21 into the McCormick Place to engage in leafleting. So we think  
22 that Hawkins is simply inapposite to this case.

23 A few factors about the so-called designated speech  
24 area that we want to emphasize.

25 Again, the area is hundreds of feet away from the



1 front gate. It's an area where people who are coming to these  
2 conferences would not even be aware that activity is going on  
3 there. It can be seen at -- it's very unclear what's going on  
4 down there, and the vast majority of people entering the  
5 facility go nowhere near there, and for people who are driving  
6 by, the pylons themselves become a barrier to seeing what is  
7 happening there.

8           Additionally, there are issues of inclement weather.  
9 If it's raining, if it's snowing, if it's cold, it's not an  
10 appropriate place for people to engage in expressive activity,  
11 and even if the weather is good, it's impossible to distribute  
12 a leaflet or engage in one-on-one conversation with people at  
13 the various functions at McCormick Place from that so-called  
14 designated speech area.

15           Another, a small issue to clear up is that, in terms  
16 of the competition that McCormick Place is having with private  
17 hotels, private hotels have sidewalks outside the front door  
18 where people have a perfect right right now to engage in  
19 expressive activity. So the notion that somehow McCormick  
20 Place is at a competitive disadvantage, if it has leafleters  
21 near the front door, compared to downtown hotels, is just  
22 simply incorrect.

23           Finally, as to the intended purposes of McCormick  
24 Place, this, of course, is an element of the analysis under  
25 whether due restriction is reasonable. The intended purpose of



1 McCormick Place is expressive and associational activity about  
2 political and economic questions, which is exactly what the  
3 plaintiff in this lawsuit wants to participate in.

4 Finally, under the Navy Pier decision, Chicago Acorn  
5 versus the same defendant, at this moment leafleting is  
6 permitted within the mall on the interior of Navy Pier and also  
7 locations outside on the sidewalk on Navy Pier, and there is no  
8 reason in the world why the same accommodation could not be  
9 made at McCormick Place.

10 As well at O'Hare Airport, right now there is a right  
11 to leaflet, and, you know, leafleting takes place in airports  
12 across the country, as we can all attest from our business  
13 travel.

14 MR. HILDEBRAND: I must have missed them, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: I haven't gotten too many either, but  
16 they are probably out there.

17 MR. GROSSMAN: We fought for that right.

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Let's turn to the free speech zone  
19 that we provide, Your Honor, and I am going to focus  
20 particularly on the western zone, although I just want to note  
21 for the record and let's not forget that there are in fact two  
22 zones. So we have put one large exterior zone at each end.

23 THE COURT: McCormick Place is a pretty big place.

24 MR. HILDEBRAND: It is a big place. It is a big  
25 place. But I don't want, I don't want to lose sight of that.

1           Let's focus though on the characteristics of the  
2 western zone since that is a --

3           THE COURT: Give me -- you want to lead me to one of  
4 your exhibits so --

5           MR. HILDEBRAND: I was about to do so, Your Honor.

6           THE COURT: Good.

7           MR. HILDEBRAND: Let's take a look first at Exhibit  
8 3, please.

9           THE COURT: And this is Exhibit 3 to the affidavit.

10          MR. HILDEBRAND: To the Mobley affidavit, that's  
11 correct.

12          THE COURT: All right.

13          MR. HILDEBRAND: You will notice in the middle, Your  
14 Honor, a large green swatch that has building in white letters.

15          THE COURT: Yes.

16          MR. HILDEBRAND: Now, if you move up to the upper  
17 left-hand corner of that, in smaller type face, it says,  
18 "McCormick Square" in a white box, and there is a blue  
19 perimeter around that. Do you see where I am looking?

20          THE COURT: Yes. The light blue perimeter around  
21 McCormick Square?

22          MR. HILDEBRAND: Yes. Now, the light blue perimeter,  
23 Your Honor, is in essence the turnaround circle that taxis and  
24 buses and so on use when they drop persons off at the main  
25 entrance to McCormick Place. The main entrance is at a place.

1 This is a very small type, I definitely need my glasses for  
2 this one, where it says, "Gate 4" in the green corner there,  
3 abutting McCormick Square, in little white letters, it says,  
4 "Gate 4."

5 THE COURT: That's the main entrance to the south  
6 building?

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: That is the main entrance, and if  
8 you look at the first exhibit to McCormick Place -- I'm sorry,  
9 to the Mobley affidavit, Your Honor, this gold cover of the  
10 promotional brochure, Exhibit 1.

11 THE COURT: Yes.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: That structure there, this facade is  
13 what we are talking about when we say Gate 4. And it's the  
14 main entrance to the facility.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Now, is it fair, is it fair to  
16 suggest that most people arriving are going to either come  
17 through that Gate 4 or walk over from the Hyatt?

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Yes. According to my general  
19 manager, the vast majority of the persons who arrive at  
20 McCormick Place do so through McCormick Square in some fashion.

21 THE COURT: Okay.

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: And if I, I am sorry, if I could  
23 call your attention to immediately to the left of McCormick  
24 Square, the main parking garage called Parking Garage A, it's  
25 kind of a peach-colored zone.

1 THE COURT: Yes.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: That's the main parking garage. So  
3 to get from that parking garage to Gate 4, Your Honor, you walk  
4 right through McCormick Square, and I'd like to refer you to  
5 some of the other pictures attached to the Mobley affidavit to  
6 help us get --

7 THE COURT: What I want you to do is help me  
8 understand how somebody that's in one of your prescribed areas  
9 communicates with these people that are arriving or departing.

10 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, could we just for -- I  
11 don't want to -- you know, we are at a marked disadvantage  
12 here. We understand the logistics, but the experience that we  
13 have had is that people use the two elevated walkways that you  
14 see from the garage into the building. They don't go across  
15 the street, and so we don't know what to do with this  
16 testimony. We take exception to it.

17 MR. HILDEBRAND: Mr. Grossman will want an  
18 opportunity, Your Honor, when his turn comes, but I guess I'd  
19 like to finish what I have to say, and then he can point out  
20 what's wrong with it, if anything.

21 THE COURT: That's a good way to proceed,  
22 Mr. Hildebrand, so go ahead.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

24 So in any event, if we take a look at Exhibit 10,  
25 Your Honor, this is, from the vantage point of a person

1 standing immediately outside the doors to Gate 4, you can see a  
2 taxi right in front there, Your Honor, this is the taxi  
3 drop-off point. And as you look across McCormick Square, you  
4 see a bunch of tall vertical pylons, okay? That entire area  
5 out there in and around the pylons is the free speech zone, all  
6 right?

7 THE COURT: The grassy area?

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: It's just beyond the grassy area.  
9 You can't see it in this picture, Your Honor, but the grass  
10 ends, and before you get to the pylons, there is about 30 feet  
11 or so of purplish flagstones. They abut either side of the  
12 pylons. They run right up to the sidewalk on Martin Luther  
13 King Drive. So it's a rather large area suitable for, frankly,  
14 very large groups of demonstrators. You could accommodate 200  
15 people out there no problem.

16 THE COURT: But that's not the kind of message that  
17 they are trying to communicate. I mean, they are not looking  
18 to bring thousands of people. They are trying to pass out  
19 leaflets or carry placards that people will see. So tell me  
20 how, what the likelihood is of anybody walking over there to  
21 obtain a -- how far would they have to walk?

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, let's continue, Your Honor.

23 Anyone who parks in the parking garage and walks  
24 across McCormick Square, and I guess I just want to finish  
25 orienting you to the pictures because I think you will get a --

1 I am trying to answer your questions as quickly as I can. I  
2 think, when we get better oriented, you'll see what I am  
3 talking about.

4           If you look at Exhibit 14, Your Honor, that is the  
5 entrance to both the parking garage and the conference center  
6 which sits to the west of McCormick Square. So, in other  
7 words, there's some conference rooms across McCormick Square  
8 from the main entrance, so what we are talking about here.  
9 Exhibit 14 shows the entrance to the parking garage and the  
10 conference center. So when you park at the parking garage, if  
11 you walk out these doors, you will see there's a walkway and  
12 some planters, okay? And just to the right, there is a tall  
13 vertical, that's one of the pylons. That is a -- this is the  
14 protest area right here by the pylons. So anyone walking along  
15 the major axis, along the major axis from the parking garage to  
16 Gate 4, the grand concourse, the main pedestrian access, must  
17 pass right by the leafleting zone. This is, Your Honor, the  
18 primary parking garage down there in this part of McCormick  
19 Place. Mr. Grossman is correct. There are circuitous interior  
20 routes through bridges which run over towards -- in other  
21 words, you don't have to walk through this area to get to the  
22 Hyatt, but on the ordinary day, the common convenient way to  
23 get from the parking garage to the main entrance of McCormick  
24 Place is to walk right through the leafleting zone and the  
25 protest zone, okay. And a couple other pictures illustrate



1 this as well.

2           You see Exhibit 11 and you compare it to Exhibit 14,  
3 those are essentially facing in opposite directions from the  
4 same point. In one direction across Martin Luther King Drive  
5 is the entrance to the parking garage, and the other entrance  
6 down past the walkway there is the entrance to McCormick Place.

7           So this is a major pedestrian access at McCormick  
8 Place, Your Honor, and it passes right through the leafleting  
9 zone.

10           I'd like to respond to another suggestion, though,  
11 Your Honor, which is your expressed concern for the particular  
12 mode of expression plaintiff prefers.

13           The authorities can't have a zone for everybody, and  
14 it needn't be the best zone for everybody's intended  
15 communicative desire. It need only be a reasonable zone. We  
16 provided a zone that is, it abuts traffic, which is important  
17 to some people, it provides a great photo op of the  
18 recognizable facade of McCormick Place for press conferences,  
19 which is important for some demonstrators. It's very large, it  
20 can accommodate large groups, which is important to some  
21 demonstrators. And it also provides access to all, you know,  
22 to pedestrians who walk from the parking garage across the main  
23 walkway into the grand concourse.

24           So we strongly feel, Your Honor, that it blends a  
25 wide variety of, blends and accommodates a wide variety of

1 expressive activities and is eminently reasonable. We haven't  
2 put people off in a little box somewhere where they are going  
3 to be limited to one type of contact with activities at  
4 McCormick Place. We have, rather, provided a very large area  
5 that accommodates, in our view, appropriately widely and  
6 differing types of First Amendment uses that people might want  
7 to engage in at McCormick Place.

8 THE COURT: Excuse me one second.

9 Jeff, do you have the Ayres decision there?

10 THE CLERK: (Tendering.)

11 THE COURT: Go ahead.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: Sure.

13 If we could take, another photo which conveys a  
14 better sense of the extent of our zone is Exhibit 6. You can't  
15 quite see the pavement that these pylons sit on, but this  
16 entire area on all, in and around and all across these pylons  
17 is open for free speech activities, and, you know, the fact  
18 that everyone sees this when they come to McCormick Place by  
19 vehicles, the fact that heavy traffic on Martin Luther King  
20 drive sees this --

21 THE COURT: What happens when it's raining?

22 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, when it's raining, when it's  
23 raining, people get wet. You are in the same situation as you  
24 would be protesting outside a downtown hotel, Your Honor. So,  
25 again, we think it's reasonable.

1           Looking again at Exhibit 3, you can see by the size  
2 of McCormick Square on this plat, the zone is very long. The  
3 northern end is near the Hyatt Hotel, the southern end is right  
4 by the pedestrian thoroughfare from the parking garage to Gate  
5 4.

6           So, as I said, under the case law, this zone need not  
7 be the most reasonable or the only reasonable accommodation; it  
8 must simply be reasonable in light of the intended uses of the  
9 forum. We think Hawkins, coupled with the extent and  
10 flexibility of our zone, more than satisfies the reasonableness  
11 tests of nonpublic forum cases.

12           THE COURT: Mr. Schwartz?

13           MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, the plaintiff would like  
14 to begin by directing your attention to Exhibit 3 of the same  
15 package of documents, I think to just walk through the  
16 different ways that people could get into McCormick Place and  
17 show the lack of contact that those people would have with the  
18 people who are demonstrating.

19           I am starting at the northernmost -- if you start at  
20 the northernmost parking lot, if you come down from the C in  
21 campus map two inches, you see the phrase "Soldier Field  
22 Parking Lot." Do you see that?

23           THE COURT: Yes.

24           MR. SCHWARTZ: If someone parks there, they are not  
25 going to come anywhere near McCormick Square. If you go south

1 from there, you get to underground parking garage C. If  
2 someone parks there, they are not going to come anywhere near  
3 McCormick Square.

4 Continuing clockwise around, if they go to parking  
5 lot B, they are not going to come anywhere near McCormick  
6 Square.

7 If they take a taxicab to one of the locations other  
8 than near McCormick Square, they are not going to be anywhere  
9 near McCormick Square. There are, for example, taxi drop-off  
10 and pickup points in the basement area of the grand concourse.  
11 If you start at McCormick Square and go a half inch to an inch  
12 out of there, there is a Gate 3, a Gate 2, a Gate 1. If  
13 someone is dropped off by car or cab or bus in those locations,  
14 they are not going to be anywhere near McCormick Square.

15 If somebody does park in parking garage A, if they  
16 park in parking garage A, they can bypass the pylons by going  
17 in one of two bridges across Martin Luther King Drive that  
18 would keep them away from the pylons.

19 If they come by Metra, they are not going to be  
20 anywhere near the pylons. If they spend the night in the Hyatt  
21 parking garage, they are not going to be anywhere near the  
22 pylons.

23 If they choose to take a bus or cab or are dropped  
24 off in a car at Gate 4, they are going to arrive at that gate  
25 in a location at least 200 feet away from the pylons.

1           Finally, if they come northbound on Martin Luther  
2 King Drive and turn right onto the driveway, they won't see  
3 demonstrators at all who will be between different pylons.  
4 Those pylons are I believe 30 feet wide, and somebody between  
5 two different pylons would not be visible from a south-facing  
6 location.

7           And if somebody is driving south on Martin Luther  
8 King Drive, it would only be short segments of space or short  
9 segments of time, seconds that somebody looking out their  
10 window might be aware that there was someone standing between  
11 the different pylons.

12           I'd like to turn the Court's attention to Exhibit 10.  
13 This the view of a person standing at Gate 4 facing west  
14 towards the pylons. If you note the middle pylon, towards the  
15 bottom of that pylon, just to the left of the pylon is a person  
16 wearing a red baseball hat. From the perspective of somebody  
17 standing in McCormick Place, it would be impossible to read  
18 anything written on a t-shirt, on a hat, on a button, and  
19 unless the sign was enormous, larger than any I've ever seen in  
20 a political demonstration, it's impossible to see what's  
21 written on the sign. Unless these people were chanting in  
22 numbers of hundreds of people, it would be impossible for  
23 anyone standing at this door to hear what was going on there.

24           So the message received by people entering Gate 4 by  
25 way of bus, taxi, or being dropped from a car would be somebody



1 is upset about something, and I have no idea what it is. This  
2 is an utter failure of expressive activity.

3 Accordingly, it is critical for the people who want  
4 to engage in expressive activity at McCormick Place to be  
5 inside, somewhere in the flow of persons attending these  
6 conventions in reasonable proximity without getting in the way,  
7 and the location suggested by Ms. Albrecht earlier is fully  
8 consistent with that.

9 Incidentally, by our estimation, the distance from  
10 the Gate 4 to the pylons is at least 200 feet. It would be  
11 interesting to me and I'm sure to the Court to know by the  
12 measure of the defendants how great that distance is from the  
13 gate to the pylons.

14 I'd like to direct the Court's attention to a quote  
15 from the Acorn decision on page 703. Judge Posner is analyzing  
16 the fifth, though controlling opinion of Justice O'Connor in  
17 the ISKCON decision, International Society of Krishna  
18 Consciousness. And Judge Posner says, "What is particularly  
19 interesting about Justice O'Connor's swing vote in ISKCON is  
20 that it blurs the line between public and nonpublic forums,  
21 suggesting a sliding scale approach in which the benefits and  
22 costs of free speech are balanced in particular settings."

23 Here, when we weigh the costs and benefits of free  
24 speech, there has been no showing at all of any cost to the  
25 defendants for a person to be engage in leafleting in a group



1 of 10 within the forum that we are talking about within the  
2 McCormick Place.

3 THE COURT: But I think that's in some way the issue,  
4 I mean, for which the record at this stage is very incomplete.  
5 I think the real question becomes what would be the financial  
6 impact or other impact on McCormick Place and its ability to  
7 market its facilities if those vendors or people who are going  
8 to use it were aware that if there were protesters, that those  
9 protesters would be, you know, right in the center of the grand  
10 hallway.

11 I mean, one of the things that concerns me now, you  
12 know, as I deal with this question, is when you have an entity  
13 that has contracted for McCormick Place to use to it put on its  
14 program, at the time it entered into this contract, it  
15 understood what it was getting itself into, what the access  
16 was, what the access wasn't, what the hotel facilities were,  
17 and took all that into account. And one of the things  
18 potentially, and once again the record is not, you know, hasn't  
19 been made on this, is do they consider that important, is that  
20 something that's important to them when they come to McCormick  
21 Place, that they know it's a secure facility, if there is going  
22 to be any problems or protests, here's where they are going to  
23 be, we can deal with that, something that, you know, to that  
24 extent.

25 That's an interest -- it's a little bit different

1 than the defendant here and in a sense an unrepresented party,  
2 it's an unrepresented party, who will be the one that's  
3 impacted or not impacted by what happens here today. I mean,  
4 they are the ones whose message you are seeking to communicate  
5 with.

6 I mean, if they were aware, if they were aware of  
7 what the situation is, they could deal with it or decide not to  
8 come here, and to some extent the fact that you are filing your  
9 lawsuit, you know, on Friday for something starting on Tuesday,  
10 it raises a lot of questions about the fairness of creating a  
11 new set of rules that come into play. I mean, I have some  
12 questions in my own mind as to the reasonableness of the access  
13 that's being provided at McCormick Place, but, you know, the  
14 law may not require anything more.

15 MR. GROSSMAN: Can I ask a question just to guide us?

16 THE COURT: Yes.

17 MR. GROSSMAN: Because we are obviously into this for  
18 the long run and trying to figure out a solution for everybody.

19 One is that without regard to what the discrete  
20 expectation is, the question is what is a reasonable  
21 expectation for contractors to have when they rent that space?  
22 You know, we as a city host virtually thousands of expressive  
23 activities to private organizations all the time, but we don't  
24 promise to insulate them from dissent in public places, and  
25 once they get into the business of providing rental space for

1 expression, I don't believe that they can insulate, under the  
2 law, those entities from dissent in public places. We have  
3 been fairly clear not to do that.

4 THE COURT: Well, but that's in a sense what the  
5 Judge Posner decision -- is it Posner -- in the Acorn case  
6 talks about, Mr. Grossman, and, you know, he's big into the  
7 economic analysis, as we all know. Let me see, at page 702  
8 beginning at 703, because the MPEA owns the buildings on Navy  
9 Pier and depends for the upkeep of the Pier on the revenues  
10 that those buildings generate, it has a legitimate and  
11 substantial interest in preventing activities that could kill  
12 those revenues. It has a greater interest than the City of  
13 Chicago itself has in the prosperity of the shops along State  
14 Street.

15 I mean it's that kind of, it's that kind of  
16 expression that talks about the interest of McCormick Place and  
17 what it does.

18 MR. GROSSMAN: I think that's true, but I think that  
19 the nature of the commercial activity per se did what -- or I  
20 should say the different kind of commercial activities is  
21 what's critical. When we run an airport, we look at the  
22 commercial activity of airlines. There is not lots of dissent  
23 against airline policy that we see taking place at O'Hare.

24 There is a menagerie of commercial activity at Navy  
25 Pier that really doesn't come under any particular rubric, but

1 the rubric here is private space for expressive activity with  
2 adjoining public spaces, both, we would say, parklike setting  
3 and this grand concourse, is very much like a city  
4 thoroughfare. It goes through to the lake, it connects parks.

5 THE COURT: Right, but by the same token, it's not as  
6 if they are precluding expressive activity.

7 MR. GROSSMAN: But isn't that really the point, not  
8 the -- it's, it certainly is the focus of the defendants that  
9 they are providing that, but doesn't that really make our case?  
10 Because if we can be there with t-shirts, and if we can talk to  
11 people, and if, in the milieu of business cards being  
12 exchanged, our client can give her business card, what possible  
13 reasonableness, what possible reasonable justification can they  
14 have in somebody not being able to memorialize that dialogue  
15 and conversation by way of a informational leaflet? I mean,  
16 leafleting is different. That's the essence of these cases.  
17 We just got through litigating this on the federal plaza as  
18 well here.

19 If you look at leafleting as low intrusive activity,  
20 the reason that Posner and different judges around the country,  
21 the reason that O'Connor gets into the dialogue is because it  
22 is so low level in its intrusiveness, and really it is so  
23 fundamental, it is so integral, it is such an historically  
24 significant grass-roots one-on-one, low-level, inexpensive form  
25 of communication that people who can't pay the thousand bucks

1 to get inside get to get their message across on the outside,  
2 and they get to do it in a --

3 THE COURT: But we are not dealing with the federal  
4 plaza here.

5 MR. GROSSMAN: No, we are not, but we are dealing  
6 with the same forum that Judge Posner dealt with or we would  
7 say to, contrary to the defendants' views, we would say that  
8 because of the nature of the activity, that is, renting space  
9 for expressive activity, with adjoining public space, that that  
10 is more unreasonable not to allow leafleting while you are  
11 allowing conversation and public admission inside the McCormick  
12 Place than it is the pier, and the pier has leafleting inside  
13 right now. So if we have leafleting inside at O'Hare, if we  
14 have leafleting inside at the pier, how can it not be that it's  
15 unreasonable to have it in this huge thoroughfare?

16 I mean, if you look at the front page of this  
17 document that they have, their Exhibit 2, in the upper  
18 left-hand corner, you are getting just a glimpse of how huge  
19 this concourse is. It's, it's just massive. And if they do  
20 not have an interest that is offended by our client being there  
21 talking in that concourse, wearing a t-shirt that says, "No  
22 RFID," how can it possibly be reasonable to limit one further  
23 mode of communication that the courts have all historically  
24 recognized as being low intrusive? The message is no  
25 different, so it cannot be that whatever it is that the vendors

1 think about having antagonistic messages outside is somehow  
2 made more antagonistic because somebody actually has it in  
3 writing. I mean, I'm not exactly sure who is the most forceful  
4 advocate. I don't know if Miss Albrecht's words or her speech,  
5 her written words or her oral speech are more powerful, but it  
6 can't possibly be that it's any more antagonistic to those  
7 interests to have it in a leaflet.

8 THE COURT: let me hear from Mr. Hildebrand.

9 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, I disagree, and I think  
10 the first point is there is no real support in the record for  
11 any of this, and an eleventh hour TRO is not an appropriate  
12 time to in essence make this up as we go along. That's the  
13 first point.

14 Secondly, I think there are some important  
15 differences between leafleting and casual conversation. One of  
16 them was pointed out in our brief, Your Honor, where the  
17 general manager expressed to me a real concern about -- this is  
18 specific to tomorrow's intended protest, Your Honor -- about  
19 the spillover effects of it getting out there in the travel and  
20 convention industry that a protest got in at McCormick Place.

21 Leafleting, Your Honor, if it is not, you know, the  
22 guy in the gorilla suit passing out a Subway leaflet on the  
23 corner, if it is leafleting to express a message, Your Honor,  
24 that is understood to be political, somewhat confrontational,  
25 which is not to say that Miss Albrecht would be disruptive, but



1 it is a different kind of dialogue than simply engaging your  
2 fellow person in conversation.

3 THE COURT: See, my concern is to what extent, you  
4 know, you read the Acorn case as saying that the restrictions,  
5 you know, if the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority has  
6 legitimate business reasons for imposing certain limits,  
7 whether on a First Amendment basis it doesn't make any  
8 difference whether you are wearing a t-shirt or passing out a  
9 leaflet. But if it does make a difference in the mind of the  
10 people who are renting McCormick Place, that's a different  
11 issue. That's a financial issue which may provide a basis for  
12 the restriction, even though we could argue on First Amendment  
13 it doesn't make any difference.

14 MR. GROSSMAN: That would translate into the  
15 exception that ate the rule. There would be no leafleting  
16 anywhere because leafleting is site specific, and it is by  
17 definition antagonistic to the interests that are present  
18 physically at that place. You know, we, you know, the nature  
19 of secondary boycotts and the ability to restrict them is  
20 evidence of the site that's gone awry. But in the pure First  
21 Amendment context, in the nonlabor context, every single  
22 leafleting activity will be site specific. I am sure that all  
23 of the -- nobody is at -- nobody is at Navy Pier because Navy  
24 Pier is unrelated to the message of the place. There has to be  
25 a reason that you are there.

1           THE COURT: Are there regulations at Navy Pier now  
2 that govern leafleting?

3           MR. GROSSMAN: To our knowledge, we have been told,  
4 we have not been able to get them, the defendants are the same  
5 authority.

6           THE COURT: I know.

7           What's the story at Navy Pier?

8           MR. HILDEBRAND: Navy Pier, Your Honor, has six very  
9 small leafleting zones. This was the outcome of the Acorn  
10 litigation, so it was in a sense judicially imposed. But there  
11 are, there are, I believe it is six leafleting zones, and the  
12 rules out there are that one person, one person only may apply  
13 for a permit to leaflet, and they have been carefully located  
14 by the general manager and with court approval to result in the  
15 least, shall we say, intrusive impact on the facility.

16           Your Honor, I will point out that there is no  
17 leafleting zone in the meeting rooms portion of Navy Pier. So,  
18 in other words, if you are up there in the -- you know, I don't  
19 know if you have been out there, but there is some areas called  
20 Festival Hall A and B where they will have things like the  
21 Antique Poster Show. There is no leafleting area up there,  
22 that's the part of Navy Pier that is most like McCormick Place,  
23 and there is also no, obviously there is no enormous open zone  
24 for free speech activities at Navy Pier comparable to what the  
25 authority has provided at McCormick Place.

1           THE COURT: Okay. What else in the analysis do we  
2 have to consider in terms of criteria?

3           MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, Your Honor, I think you hit on  
4 an important point a few moments ago in focusing on the  
5 spillover effect on the expectations of third parties. There  
6 is no support in the record for Mr. Grossman's assertion that  
7 the intended purpose of McCormick Place is to foster expressive  
8 activity. The intended purpose of McCormick Place is  
9 established by the Illinois legislature, and the only evidence  
10 in the record is that McCormick Place is set up to host large  
11 conventions. And in the opinion of its managers, the people  
12 who attend these conventions essentially view their licensed  
13 spaces at McCormick Place as an extension of their private  
14 business. In other words, Your Honor, they have no more  
15 expectation of being leafleted when they leave Hall B and enter  
16 the grand concourse than they would when they get out of the  
17 elevators at the bottom of the AT&T Center and walk to  
18 Starbucks. It's that kind of environment, Your Honor. It's  
19 what's called a business-to-business environment, and those are  
20 customers' expectations.

21           THE COURT: Okay, but my concern is making sure that  
22 First Amendment expressive activity can be effectively  
23 communicated to people, and, you know, if you don't want to do  
24 it in the grand concourse, you have to make some way, make some  
25 way available I think under the case law to have communicated,

1 and I am not sure what you have done is adequate at this point.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, we'd like to explore  
3 that with the opportunity to develop a full record, but we get  
4 back to the point that this is a TRO. Tomorrow there are going  
5 to be four huge shows in McCormick Place. Our security people  
6 aren't expecting this. They had no notice. The people  
7 attending the show aren't expecting this. No one expects to  
8 see leafleters out in the grand concourse because they have  
9 never been there before.

10 So if, you know, if we want to pursue this analysis  
11 in the litigation, we feel confident that, with the proper  
12 testimonial foundation and developing an evidentiary record, it  
13 would have been possible if we had done this two or six weeks  
14 ago. You know, we could get to the right outcome and the same  
15 outcome, but we do think, Your Honor, it's sharply unfair to  
16 impose this on us at the last minute when we have a huge  
17 protest zone outside, and, again, the testimony is that people  
18 who park in the parking garage and walk in will walk right by  
19 it, and everybody who comes through McCormick Place can see the  
20 signs these people are carrying, and if they are curious, they  
21 can walk over, say hello and start chatting.

22 THE COURT: Here's what I'd like to do. Is there --  
23 I mean, you have got the general counsel here. Do you have any  
24 ability to negotiate with the plaintiffs or are your hands  
25 tied?

1 MS. GETZ: She doesn't have her clients.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: The real person we need to talk to  
3 is the general manager and the CEO, and they are not here.

4 THE COURT: I mean, I will be prepared to rule later  
5 this afternoon. I am going to encourage you, if you have the  
6 ability to do so, to talk about trying to create an area closer  
7 to where people come in and go out so that leaflets can be  
8 distributed. I mean, I have some concern that where they are  
9 right now or where you are putting them enables them to get  
10 their message across.

11 By the same token, I want the plaintiffs to realize  
12 that I have some grave concern about the lateness of you  
13 bringing the case and what the potential balance of hardships  
14 are in this situation, in other words, the hardship on you to  
15 be able to leaflet this particular forum versus what the  
16 potential consequences are on McCormick Place and its ability  
17 to continue to attract conventions. I'm not unmindful of the  
18 First Amendment importance, but by the same token the economic  
19 realities of McCormick Place and its importance to Chicago, and  
20 I am looking to find some kind of effective balance that  
21 McCormick Place can live with and that First Amendment  
22 advocates can live with. And I know, you know, ultimately we  
23 worked out something with Taste of Chicago to provide a place  
24 for people in the main areas of Taste where they could do that,  
25 and I guess you've worked the same thing out at Navy Pier. And



1 while you may think you have worked something out or provided  
2 something at McCormick Place, I want you to think very hard  
3 about whether it's consistent with the Acorn decision and the  
4 leafleting implications that Judge Posner talks about to see  
5 whether there may be some room even on an experimental basis  
6 for you for these next three days to come to some  
7 accommodation.

8 Is there anything to talk about between you?

9 MR. GROSSMAN: We'd be happy to continue that  
10 dialogue.

11 THE COURT: Yes. I want to.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: Mindful of what you are saying, Your  
13 Honor, we should certainly, we will consider it, although,  
14 without conferring with the client, I don't know what the  
15 answer will be. But I hear what you are saying.

16 THE COURT: I mean, let me make it clear. The  
17 defendant certainly has the right to designate an area for  
18 safety, traffic, and other reasons that's reasonable, but that  
19 area has to also permit the message to get across in some  
20 meaningful way, and, you know, based on this record, I don't  
21 know whether you met it or not. I'm not telling either side  
22 what I am going to rule. I am trying to express to you my  
23 concerns on both sides in the hope that you will at least try  
24 something out for three days, but if you can't, I'll give you a  
25 ruling. And you tell me when you want to come back for the



1 ruling.

2 MR. GROSSMAN: We are ready. We have our clients  
3 here.

4 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well --

5 MS. GETZ: What is good for you, Your Honor?

6 THE COURT: I'm here for the duration. I've got  
7 discovery motions that are going to take me God knows how long.

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, if we could have just a  
9 few moments out in the hall, if I could return in two or three  
10 minutes to give you a clear answer?

11 THE COURT: That's fine.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: One way or the other.

13 THE COURT: Why don't we take a short recess.

14 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you.

15 THE COURT: Was there anything else anybody wants to  
16 argue to me on this? Okay. Thank you.

17 (Recess.)

18 MR. HILDEBRAND: Your Honor, we aren't able to come  
19 to an answer in the short time frame, so what we would suggest  
20 is as follows: We will go back, make a few phone calls, try to  
21 have a discussion if we can, and in the meantime, just say we  
22 will reappear for ruling at 4 o'clock. If we are able to work  
23 something out before then, so be it.

24 THE COURT: That's fine. I'll be here.

25 MR. HILDEBRAND: Okay.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 (Recess.)

4 THE COURT: Have you had any luck in your  
5 discussions?

6 MR. HILDEBRAND: We have not, Your Honor. We were  
7 unable to reach the required decisionmakers, and so we are  
8 prepared to take your ruling.

9 However, we want to assure you we are mindful of some  
10 of the things you expressed today. We don't feel it's  
11 appropriate for us to take this in an imposed fashion in a TRO.  
12 We will go back and talk and think about what you've said.

13 THE COURT: The first thing I'd like to do is I'd  
14 like to decide what's no longer at issue. What is no longer at  
15 issue here? Let's talk about what is the understanding of what  
16 plaintiff will be allowed to do without any court ruling.

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, if I may start?

18 One issue that's off the table is expressive activity  
19 within Hall B-1. Now that we have learned that it is  
20 controlled by the group that had rented that venue, we don't  
21 want to ask this Court to order the defendants to order the  
22 tenent to allow the expressive activity therein.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: We'd agree with that, with the  
24 caveat that we have a contractual relationship with them, and  
25 we are not sure that any such relief would be appropriate in

1 any event, but apparently that's off the table.

2 THE COURT: All right. Now, what will she be allowed  
3 to do, the group be allowed to do in the main hallway?

4 MR. HILDEBRAND: Well, Your Honor --

5 THE COURT: Absent a court ruling.

6 MR. HILDEBRAND: Absent a court ruling, Ms. Albrecht  
7 and her like-minded citizens will enjoy whatever public access  
8 to McCormick Place exists tomorrow, and I believe the only time  
9 the bottom -- I was talking to the general counsel about this.  
10 Our understanding, again without confirming with the general  
11 manager, our understanding is the grand concourse is in fact  
12 typically open to the public, and you can simply walk up the  
13 steps and over to Lakeside Center, except when both the north  
14 and south buildings are under a single show. Some of the very  
15 larger shows do span both facilities.

16 THE COURT: So we don't have that situation tomorrow?

17 MR. HILDEBRAND: I do not believe we have that  
18 situation tomorrow because we know for a fact that there is  
19 different shows in the north building and the south building.

20 So we do believe that the concourse will be open to  
21 pedestrian access as it usually is, and provided they are  
22 nondisruptive and follow the rules, so to speak, plaintiffs  
23 will be able to move about, wear t-shirts, talk to people, that  
24 sort of thing.

25 THE COURT: And what will they be prohibited from

1 doing, absent a court ruling?

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: Leafletting, Your Honor. They would  
3 be prohibited from trying to unfurl a banner, obviously.

4 THE COURT: Within the grand concourse?

5 MR. HILDEBRAND: Within the grand concourse, correct.

6 MR. GROSSMAN: Which we do not seek to do.

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: Right.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MR. HILDEBRAND: I am trying to remember what else  
10 they indicated an interest in doing in there.

11 MR. GROSSMAN: That's the extent of the activity.

12 MR. HILDEBRAND: I think obviously kind of shouting  
13 or singing or chanting or something like that, I think they  
14 would be asked to leave as disruptive, but I don't believe they  
15 have indicated an interest in doing that. Linking arms and --  
16 you know, but none of this is going on.

17 THE COURT: Sitting down in front of the doors  
18 blocking the traffic?

19 MR. HILDEBRAND: Yes, they can even wear tie-died  
20 shirts, Your Honor, but they can't link arms.

21 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor, in addition to leafletting  
22 both inside the grand concourse and in the park area outside of  
23 the grand concourse, the plaintiff in the park area would like  
24 to hold signs that say "Stop RFID."

25 THE COURT: I'm not aware that that's being -- I

1 think that's what those areas are for.

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: If by the park area you simply mean  
3 the pylons --

4 MR. SCHWARTZ: Let me clarify. We want to or the  
5 plaintiff would like to hold up a sign and do the leafleting  
6 within 25 feet of the front door in the park area.

7 MR. HILDEBRAND: They will be prevented from doing  
8 that, Your Honor. The landscaped space is currently not open  
9 for protest activities, and so they would not be allowed to do  
10 that.

11 MR. GROSSMAN: Your Honor, for clarification, the  
12 place 25 feet from Gate 4, excuse me, the area that is 25 feet  
13 from Gate 4 that we would anticipate using if this Court would  
14 empower us to do so is the area directly south of that gate and  
15 not in the street area. There is a substantial sidewalk  
16 directly south of the, of Gate 4.

17 MR. HILDEBRAND: I am somewhat confused now because  
18 when counsel mentioned the park area, I guess I thought he was  
19 talking about the grass across the turnabout. So --

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. HILDEBRAND: Maybe we should try and --

22 THE COURT: I am ready to rule.

23 MR. HILDEBRAND: Excuse me, Your Honor.

24 THE COURT: I think I am ready to rule. I think I  
25 have an understanding.

1 First of all, this is a very interesting case, as are  
2 all First Amendment cases, and based on the record that's been  
3 presented before me, I am going to deny the motion for a  
4 temporary restraining order for the following reasons:

5 First, with respect to the type of area, I do find,  
6 for at least these purposes, that the plaintiff has not  
7 established that it's a traditional public forum. I don't  
8 think there has been a sufficient record to establish that.

9 And under these circumstances, I believe the  
10 defendant has made a reasonable accommodation to the plaintiff  
11 to be able to express her and the group's opposition to the  
12 activities by being allowed to go to the grand concourse where  
13 these people are going to be entering the meeting rooms, to be  
14 able to wear a t-shirt which expresses their opposition, to be  
15 able to approach these people, and to discuss these matters  
16 with them.

17 While leafleting generally falls within the  
18 expressive activity, I am concerned at this point in time about  
19 dealing with how to prevent potential disruption and whether or  
20 not there can be an area found in the main concourse for those  
21 kind of activities which I think would require further engaging  
22 of people, and it may be on the merits that I will find that  
23 there is a violation and possibly on the merits I will enter  
24 some kind of permanent injunction.

25 As I indicated in my questioning, I think in



1 balancing the threat of irreparable harm, I don't find that the  
2 plaintiff is going to suffer irreparable harm at this time  
3 because she still will have access to the people she wants to  
4 contact. She appears to be and the group appears to be  
5 sophisticated and knowledgeable about being able to contact the  
6 people, the types of people who are going to be attending this  
7 conference in other ways, so that she will still have access to  
8 them.

9 I believe that there is, in the balancing of  
10 hardships, I am concerned about the potential hardship on  
11 McCormick Place and the potential adverse consequences if  
12 general leafleting and demonstrations were allowed to occur in  
13 the grand concourse. I'd rather see that worked out in some  
14 kind of controlled setting, and I think the plaintiffs had an  
15 obligation to come forward earlier so that these issues could  
16 have been addressed in a way that would have enabled everybody  
17 to try to think this through rather than do it in a hurried  
18 fashion. Tomorrow appears to be an extremely busy day at  
19 McCormick Place with a whole variety of conferences and  
20 conventions taking place, I think the papers indicate something  
21 on the magnitude of 40,000 people, and to introduce leafleting  
22 and other things without giving everybody adequate time to  
23 prepare for and deal with the issue I think places an undue  
24 burden on the representatives of McCormick Place and the other  
25 conventions and bodies participating there, including the one

1 to which you wish to communicate to.

2 In terms of the overall public interest here, while  
3 the First Amendment has a great and extremely high value and  
4 one of the highest, I think the plaintiffs are not being  
5 prevented from communicating their message.

6 For all those reasons, I am going to deny the motion  
7 for a temporary restraining order without prejudice to seeking  
8 ultimate relief.

9 I think I am going to encourage the defendants to  
10 think carefully about trying to find an area within the grand  
11 concourse, if it's consistent, I mean, if it's at all  
12 consistent with what they believe their mission to be, to  
13 provide an area for protest or other demonstrations in a way  
14 that the Seventh Circuit has talked about at Navy Pier. And I  
15 would just say this is a very close question in terms of  
16 business and financial implications of running McCormick Place  
17 as against the types of activities that are out there, some of  
18 which are business and some of which may have more broader  
19 public interest ramifications.

20 So for all those reasons, the Court is going to deny  
21 the motion for a temporary restraining order, finding that the  
22 defendant, at least for purposes of tomorrow and through  
23 Wednesday, has provided a reasonable access to the plaintiff to  
24 get her message across, both through the stated public areas  
25 which have been marked off for the demonstrations and also by

1 providing the plaintiff with access in the grand concourse  
2 wearing t-shirts and being able to approach people who may be  
3 entering the conference, to talk to them if she chooses to do  
4 so.

5 That's the Court's ruling. Thank you.

6 MR. GROSSMAN: Judge, could we seek clarification on  
7 one point?

8 My client is a little bit confused about the use of a  
9 business card in conversations that she's had. Is that  
10 permitted activity under the --

11 THE COURT: It would be my view that if engaging in  
12 conversation, as a result of the conversation, somebody  
13 requests it or she offers it and somebody expresses an interest  
14 in receiving it, that there would be no prohibition in doing  
15 that so that people could follow up with them. I'm not trying  
16 to prevent future communications.

17 But I don't think she should be, you know, throwing  
18 business cards at people. I think the purpose is to permit her  
19 to interact with people. If they wish to discuss it with her,  
20 she can discuss. If they wish further information, she can  
21 supply them with her business card. But as opposed to  
22 leafleting, as opposed to leafleting.

23 Anything further?

24 MR. GROSSMAN: Nothing.

25 MR. HILDEBRAND: No, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: Anything further from the defendants?

2 MR. HILDEBRAND: Not at all. Thank you for your  
3 time.

4 THE COURT: Why don't we just talk about future  
5 scheduling of the case so that we can do this in a more  
6 controlled environment.

7 How much time to answer the complaint?

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: Two weeks, Your Honor?

9 THE COURT: Okay. And how much discovery, or is it  
10 too early to tell?

11 MR. GROSSMAN: It's early for us, Your Honor.  
12 Perhaps we could have a date? We could meet before then.

13 THE COURT: For a status? That's fine. Why don't  
14 you make your initial disclosures on both side, whatever  
15 initial disclosures you have, within five weeks, initial  
16 disclosures in five weeks, and why don't we have a status and  
17 work out a discovery schedule later that week.

18 THE CLERK: October 23rd at 10 o'clock.

19 THE COURT: Okay. That will be for status, and we'll  
20 deal with it at that time. And that way I'll also get some  
21 feedback on the events that transpire, or perhaps in the  
22 meantime you will have worked something out and be able to have  
23 people talk about the issues and try to work out something that  
24 both sides can live with. Not only -- it will be over with for  
25 you and this particular conference, but they can at least deal

1 with issues in the future, and McCormick Place I believe is  
2 going to be there, if we don't have another fire, for a long  
3 period of time. So the issues you have raised are important  
4 ones, and it just requires I think a little more time to really  
5 work all of this out.

6 So thank you.

7 MR. GROSSMAN: Thank you.

8 MR. HILDEBRAND: Thank you, Your Honor.

9 C E R T I F I C A T E

10 I, Michael P. Snyder, do hereby certify that the  
11 forgoing is a complete, true, and accurate transcript of the  
12 proceedings had in the above-entitled case before the Honorable  
13 ELAINE E. BUCKLO, one of the judges of said Court, at Chicago,  
14 Illinois, on September 15, 2003.

15   
16

17 Official Court Reporter

18 United States District Court

19 Northern District of Illinois

20 Eastern Division  
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